From: Brown, Steve [mailto:Steve.Brown@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 July 2012 16:19
To: Fiona Cruickshank
Subject: FW: Response to FCS - Creag Clunie Woodland Regeneration
Hi Fiona,

I forwarded your response to Carol Robertson before I went on holiday.
I have read her response and I am inclined to agree with her idea about waiting for a period of around 6 years (or an agreed timeframe) and then undertaking a site review to inform a management plan.
If you are ok with that idea I can get her to write out some text to put in the contract that will bind the estate to carrying out these site reviews and appropriate responses to the site review.

Steve
Stephen Brown
Woodland Officer
Grampian Conservancy
Portsoy Road
Huntly
AB54 4SJ
01466794542
01224440727

From: Carol Robertson [mailto:carol.robertson@nativewoods.co.uk]
Sent: 26 July 2012 08:12
To: Brown, Steve
Subject: RE: Response to FCS - Creag Clunie Woodland Regeneration

Dear Steve,
I hope you had a relaxing holiday.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the latest SNH response; I have made a few points below on the letter of the 4th July 2012:

3.2 Plants in acid rock crevices – I am concerned by the requirement to remove all trees from a 10m buffer surrounding all crags between 540 & 560m. The requirement is not refined enough to meet the objectives, particularly if a SGRIP non-specialist is undertaking a site review. Firstly some of the crags have tree and shrub regeneration at present which SNH did not feel was of concern during our site visit at the end of last year. Secondly, not all the crags are important for this feature. Therefore can we not have as a contract condition to review this area at year 6 by FCS & SNH and the Estate as suggested in and informed by the monitoring plan, and make the decision if tree removal is required and where management should be targeted?

3.3 Dry bearberry heath – As we know regeneration will form a patchy distribution from dense pockets to single trees. Not sure what the 20% cover rule is based on; from my own anecdotal evidence I thought the percentage could be higher without detriment to the bearberry? Would have preferred for this to be judged on site at an agreed review period as stated under 3.2,

however if we are to be guided by this 20% cover rule, in practice I would feel happier if this was based on an average over the identified area.

Under Section 4:
First paragraph – Fiona has made a mistake the monitoring plan makes no recommendation to increase the buffer around the areas of calcareous grassland & flushes from 10m as stated in the EIA to 20m. Again my point concerning reviewing these areas at agreed timeframes to inform management seems a more appropriate contract condition.

To be clear the habitat maps produced show these buffer areas already.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if anything is unclear.

Yours,
Carol

01464 820396

From: Brown, Steve [mailto:Steve.Brown@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 04 July 2012 16:56
To: carol.robertson@nativewoods.co.uk
Subject: FW: Response to FCS - Creag Clunie Woodland Regeneration

Hi Carol,

I thought you might look at the responses from SNH.
I will not have time to go over it until I come back from holiday on the 30th of July. If you have any comments please send them to me to read on my return.
Have you finished the redesign of the planting plan.

Regards
Steve

Stephen Brown
Woodland Officer
Grampian Conservancy
Portsoy Road
Huntly
AB54 4SJ
01466794542
01224440727

From: Fiona Cruickshank [mailto:Fiona.Cruickshank@snh.gov.uk]
Sent: 04 July 2012 14:53
To: Brown, Steve
Cc: Neale Taylor
Subject: Response to FCS - Creag Clunie Woodland Regeneration

Dear Steve

See attached our final response to the Creag Clunie Woodland Regeneration proposals. I have also attached a copy of the paper we submitted to SG for endorsment (some light bed time reading perhaps...).

One difference between this response and our previous one in October last year is that we are just advising on protected species and not recomending whether surveys would be required. FCS has their own guidance for protected species and we are content to defer to you to determine whether surveys are required and what action the estate should take.

I understand that this response is fairly complex due to the number of overlapping interests on the site. I am happy to meet and discuss further if this would help.

Regards
Fiona

From: Brown, Steve
Sent: 19 October 2012 12:16
To: 'Penny Lawson'
Cc: 'francesthin@cairngorms.co.uk'; Macpherson, Janice
Subject: A93 roadside design

Dear Penny,

I have enclosed a map and a method statement from the estate for the planting beside the A93
I believe that this plan presents an appropriate edge design that is sympathetic to the landscape. The species chosen and the density of planting give a well balanced level of diversity. The plan has avoided any dense wall effect by the roadside by using wider spacing near the road.
I hope this addresses your concerns.

Kind regards
Steve

Stephen Brown
Woodland Officer
Grampian Conservancy
Portsoy Road
Huntly
AB54 4SJ
01466794542
01224440727

Creag Clunie Native Woodland Regeneration Proposal – Note of Meeting held on 14 September 2012

Present – Carol Robertson (Native Woodland Advisor), Ian Hill (Invercauld Estate), Steve Brown (FCS),

Background

This meeting was called to discuss the detail of conditions recommended for attachment to an RDC. SNH originally recommended the following conditions in a letter dated 14 July 2012:

1. Arctostaphylos (H16) heath – If monitoring indicates that scattered tree and scrub cover exceeds 20% on H16 heath then action should be taken to reduce cover to below this level.

   Reason - To maintain the extent and distribution of bearberry (H16) heath.

2. Plants in crevices on base rich rocks – If tree regeneration occurs within the 20m buffer of the *Stegonia latifolia* outcrops then this should be removed.

   Reason – To maintain the extent and distribution of this habitat.

3. Plants in crevices on acid rocks – If monitoring indicates that trees are regenerating
   within the 10m buffer surrounding the rocky outcrops at Carn nan Sgliat then these trees should be removed.

   Reason – to maintain the extent and distribution of this habitat.

4. Calcareous grassland – If monitoring indicates that trees and scrub are beginning to
   encroach within the 10m buffer area then this should be removed.

   Reason – to maintain the extent of habitat and to prevent over-shading.

5. All monitoring results from fixed point photos should be forwarded to FCS and SNH for review/retention.

   Reason – To allow a judgement to be made as to whether regenerating trees should
   be removed from the key areas containing the interests from the designated sites.

Following this letter being issued by SNH to FCS, Invercauld Estate was concerned about Condition 3, to remove all regeneration from a 10m buffer around the crags at Carn nan Sgliat. This was for a number of reasons, including that the crags already supported some regeneration which was currently not a cause for concern, and was not having a detrimental impact to the features, and that the area was quite big and therefore could be expensive to maintain, the costs of which are not covered by any RDC payments that the Estate are likely to receive.

Points discussed at the meeting

The concerns that the Estate had included the following:

- That the current levels of regeneration were not an issue and they were concerned that the site could be inspected which would result in scrub being removed which was unnecessary.
- That the payment rates included do not cover this type of work and so they were unwilling to commit to something that was difficult to measure.

SB from FCS said that due to the exposed nature of the site, and the thin soils in the vicinity of the crags, there was a low risk of getting significant amounts of regeneration in the 10 years of the contract. Therefore, the main risk to the crags was likely to arise after the 10 years. SB stated that FCS would struggle to enforce any conditions after this period and so any conditions could be ineffective.

In order to allow a baseline to be established fixed point photos should be taken in the first year of the contract. CR to change in the Monitoring Plan. **AP for CR**
[*The following wording was also agreed at the meeting for inclusion in the monitoring plan "* Any tree regeneration identified as having a potential impact on the features will be removed as per an agreement between the Estate and FCS/ SNH."]

FCr stated that SNH can (subject to budgets etc.) fund any works that are not eligible through RDC. SB stated that this type of work is not eligible through RDCs, and that land classed as 'Open Ground' or 'Other Land' did not benefit from any of the payments that would be received through the RDC. On this basis, FCr stated that SNH can provide some reassurance to the Estate that if the works to clear trees and scrub from the crags at Carn nan Sgliat were to be expensive, then SNH would be prepared to fund this work separately.

It was decided that, given the lower risk of regeneration occurring in these areas in the shorter term, that the condition should be re-worded, firstly to ensure that fixed point monitoring is carried out in the first year of the scheme, and then to state that action would be taken if the monitoring identified that tree encroachment was having an impact on the features. Following on from this, we would want the condition to state that if the agencies (FCS and SNH) were in agreement that the tree encroachment was at a level where it could have a potential impact on the features then action would be required. Action should be taken before scrub becomes a problem, and when scattered scrub is at a low level and trees/saplings are small. The exact way to tackle this will be determined once monitoring results have been received and potential funding mechanisms will be investigated.

FCr to suggest a re-wording for condition 3 relating to the Plants in Crevices feature. **AP FCr**

SNH will issue a letter to the Estate to confirm that the clearance of scrub around the crags at Carn nan Sgliat would not be covered by the RDC payments, and that the work itself would not be a condition of contract. However, the need to enter into discussions with SNH about how to remedy the problem should it arise will be mentioned in the 'points to note' section of the contract. If encroachment by trees does become an issue SNH will seek out alternative sources of funding for the work. This may be through an SNH management agreement, or a successor scheme to Rural Development Contracts. **AP for FCr**

Fiona Cruickshank
20 September 2012

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Mr Steve Brown
Forestry Commission Scotland
Grampian Conservancy
Portsoy Road
Huntly
Aberdeenshire
AB54 4SJ

28 September 2012
Our Ref – SIT/SSSI/CREAG CLUNIE AND THE LIONS FACE

Dear Steve

CREAG CLUNIE NATIVE WOODLAND REGENERATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (FORESTRY)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1999

Further to our meeting on 14 September 2012 I am writing to confirm the outcome of our discussions and to suggest an amended wording to the conditions recommended in our original response dated 14 July 2012.

As discussed, the maintenance of areas which contain non-woodland features of Ballochbuie Special Area of Conservation (SAC) free from tree regeneration is not covered by the payment rates offered under the woodland options available through Rural Development Contracts (RDCs). As a consequence Invercauld Estate, the applicant in this case, has agreed to keep the most vulnerable features free from trees. However, the estate is concerned at the condition requiring them to maintain a buffer around the acid outcrops at Carn nan Sgliat free from trees, which form part of the plants in crevices on acid rocks feature.

The agreement reached at the meeting was to retain coverage of this area in the monitoring work proposed in the Environmental Impact Assessment, to allow FCS and SNH to assess whether any action was required. If it is decided that action is required then the mechanism for funding any works will be determined at this time. This could be through an SNH management agreement, or alternatively, through the successor scheme to RDCs if there are eligible options.

A suggested re-wording of Condition 3 is as follows:

- *Plants in crevices on acid rocks – If monitoring indicates that trees which are regenerating within the 10m buffer surrounding the rocky outcrops at Carn nan Sgliat are a potential risk (as assessed by FCS and SNH) for this feature then the Estate agrees in principle to remove these trees. It is acknowledged that the funding of this specific area of work is not covered by the current Rural Development Contract and alternative funding mechanisms will be investigated at this time.*

  Reason – to maintain the extent and distribution of this habitat.

Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverdee House, Baxter Street, Aberdeen, AB11 9QA
Tel 01224 266500 Fax 01224 895958 www.snh.gov.uk

I hope this accurately reflects our discussion. If you have queries or would like to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[By e-mail]

Fiona Cruickshank
Operations Officer – Tayside & Grampian
fiona.cruickshank@snh.gov.uk

cc. Simon Blackett, Invercauld Estate
Ian Hill, Invercauld Estate

APPENDIX 9 DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Part 1 Scheme Details

A) Scheme details

Location:
Creag Clunie (NO175910, sheet 43 Braemar & Atholl) near the village of Braemar, Aberdeenshire

Owner:
Invercauld Estate

Agent:
Scottish Woodlands LTD

Deer Management Plan Author:
Ian Hill

Type of woodland:
Existing woodland type of Scots Pine, European Larch and Birch with small pockets of Aspen, this will be enhanced by further new mixed planting of Scots Pine and mixed broadleaves with natural regeneration

Deer Species:
Red and Roe deer are present

Application area of deer management unit (hectares):
1032Ha in total, woodland 222Ha open hill 440, new planting plus regeneration zone 368 Ha

B) Please tell us the proposed work.

We are proposing a new deer fence (6,850m), which will exclude both Red and Roe deer from the existing woodland area and the areas of new planting and a regeneration proposed.
This will allow the estate to create 309Ha of new planting with a mixture of native broadleaves and Scots Pine, with a further 60Ha as regeneration of Birch, Pine Juniper.

The new deer fence will be marked, where appropriate, with wooden droppers to help prevent bird strike. This will be in accordance with the latest guidance for fencing in a core Capercaillie area and advice from Tim Poole the Capercaillie Project Officer.

This scheme will help reduce grazing / browsing pressure within the fenced area, to assist the recovery of ground vegetation, like blaeberry, in the existing woodland. This will benefit species such as Blackcock and Capercaillie, which are resident in the area.

This new scheme will continue from the original WGS which was set up in 1999 (ref WGS 031000597) for regeneration without deer fencing as an option.

C) Please tell us any relevant information to support the area applied for.

This proposed scheme will help Caledonian Pine woodland habitat and associated species to regenerate and ensure the habitat recovers and remains for future generations. This site is adjacent to the Ballochbuie SSSI of Balmoral and the works proposed will help ensure this habitat remains.

Part 2
Deer Management Plan

A) Management Plan Objectives

(Include Statement of intended outcomes)

Objectives:

1. To maintain a very low deer density level to permit tree establishment of both planted and regenerated species within the fenced area.

2. Maintain the perimeter fence so it remains deer proof.

3. Regular visits around the fence to monitor bird strikes which will be recorded and to repair any damaged area as a result of either snow or wear and tear.

4. The deer fence will be removed once the trees have become established enough to allow the deer back in for shelter.

Justification for deer control:

Deer density and browsing damage at the present time are not adequate to allow natural regeneration of Scots pine, Juniper and native broadleaves.

This scheme continues from the original WGS set up in 1999 (ref WGS 031000597), this was to encourage tree regeneration without the use of a deer fence. After 10 years the scheme showed positive signs of vegetation recovering and tree regeneration but, the levels of browsing were still too high. The estate has now decided to fence the area in to help achieve its objective of establishing tree cover and the recovery of the ground vegetation.

The aim of the scheme is to ensure that the deer are kept to a very low density in the fenced area to allow for the newly planted tree species and the natural regeneration of Birch and Juniper to become established.

This would contribute to targets for a number of Priority species and Habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan process.

B) Cull Targets (i) Reduction Culls

Year	Male				Female				Juveniles				Totals
	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	
11/12	25	5	~	~	50	8	~	~	25	8	~	~	100
12/13	20	5	~	~	45	8	~	~	20	8	~	~	116

Comments / Additional Information

It is proposed that we cull all the resident deer within the newly fenced area within the first 2 years. This will allow the planted trees to become established as soon as possible.
To enable the Estate to carry this out we will be applying for out of season / night shooting licences. Although the scheme is fenced we will still be applying for out of season licence

Foot count taken place on 19/02/10, 32 stags and 117 others. These are the figures we will use for the DMP and cull targets. Roe deer numbers are not known these are estimates for cull but will be shot on sight.

C) Cull Targets (Cont) (ii) Management Culls

Year	Male				Female				Juveniles				Totals
	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	
13/14	5	4	~	~	8	5	~	~	3	6	~	~	31
14/15	3	3			5	4			4	6			25
15/16	3	3			5	4			4	6			25

Comments / Additional Information

It would be our intention to follow a zero tolerance to deer within the fenced area to ensure a very low density to allow the establishment of the planted trees and regeneration areas. Any deer breaching the fence will be culled and the fence repaired.

A management target would not apply as we are aiming to keep the area clear / very low density of any deer, but we have added some figures in to allow for deer over the long term. These figures may change if deer breach the fence and need to be culled.

D) Nominated Controller/s

(Notify FC if any changes occur)

	Nominated controller	*Owner*	**Estate ⊕ Employee**	**Contract Stalker**	**Shooting Tenant**	*Place of Residence*	*Firearms Certificate No*
1	Ian Hill		√	No	No	Braemar	26162

2	Peter Fraser		√	No	No	Braemar	9507
3	Michael Falconer		√	No	No	Braemar	24162

⊕ Section 26(i) of the deer act clarifies definition of "employee".

	Controller's Relevant Experience and Calibre of Rifles Authorised
1	18 years experience of both Red and Roe deer management mainly in woodlands for tree regeneration projects over 2000Ha. Calibre .308 DMSVQ levels 1&2
2	Head Gamekeeper on the Baddoch and Callater beats responsible for deer management totalling 11,000Ha for the past 30yrs controlling both Red and Roe deer mainly on the hill. Calibre .243 DMSVQ levels 1&2 also an accredited witness for these schemes.
3	Full time beat keeper / stalker responsible for deer management of over 11,000Ha with the Head Gamekeeper. 16yrs experience and holder of DSC level 1 Rifle: .270

E) Record Keeping. (As Per DCS Best Practice Guide).
(To be provided to DCS)

Must include:-Date killed, species, sex, estimated age, body weight, female reproductive status.

The records to be kept will include :- Species, Sex, Estimated age, Body weight, Antler points, Female reproductive status, Tag number, Date killed, Animals condition.

These records are initially entered on a larder sheet documenting all the above information and any abnormalities encountered.

Records are then collated by the dedicated wildlife ranger and transferred to a computer spreadsheet. These, together with the vegetation assessments and the count information, when completed, will produce a yearly report which will be submitted to the F.C and SNH Wildlife Operations Unit by the end of April annually.

F) Method(s) used to annually assess damage to woodlands.
(Annual returns must be compiled by applicant. These will be reviewed at year 5 or as requested).

During the past WGS (031000597) which was set up in 1999 a series of 10 quadrates were set up along 2 transects. It is our intension to keep these running as we already have data collected over the term of the WGS which can be used as a baseline for vegetation / tree growth.
Please refer to the reports Carol Robertson of Scottish Native Woods and Andrew Nolan of the Macaulay Research produced in September 2000 and January 2005.

These assessments will be undertaken by Carol Roberson of North East Native Woods and the Estate wildlife ranger Ian Hill in years 1, 3 and 5 years. This data together with the beat - up surveys, which will indicate how the planted trees are establishing, will indicate if damage is occurring, and by deer / hare or rabbit. A series of fixed point photographs from around the site will be taken during the assessment visits.

G) Applicant's brief description of methods used to evaluate and review progress of Deer Management Plan

The results from the vegetation monitoring / beat-up surveys and yearly visual counting of the deer, which will take place in late winter / spring, will indicate if the control measures are effective. If changes are needed then they can be made in the following years cull target.
If the results suggest a rabbit or hare issue then these will be addressed in the following month by a series of control methods.

The DMP will be reviewed annually in May with the view of producing the following years work programme with respect to the findings of the vegetation surveys.

Part 3 Supporting Information

A) Information Relating to Known Deer Densities (counts etc)

	Present	Density in Woodland Per 100ha	*Density* On open hill Per 100Ha	Source of Count		Dung Count Info	Year Of Count
				DCS	Estate		
Red	√	*Not known*		*Estate foot count*		~	2010
Roe	√	*Not known*	*Not known*			~	

Comment /Additional; Information

Foot count taken place on 19/02/10, 32 stags and 117 others. These are the figures we will use for the DMP and cull targets.

B) Woodland Deer Density Indicators

	4-8 Low Density	8-15 Medium Density	15+ High Density
Evidence			

Tracks	Difficult to find deer slot marks or defined paths.	Defined paths slot marks easy to find in areas of soft ground.	Many well defined tracks and paths often black with constant use.
(Tick)		√	
Dung	Difficult to find with just the odd isolated pellet group.	Pellet groups relatively easy to find, particularly on woodland edges and good feeding areas.	Pellet groups very easy to find. Highly concentrated on favoured feed areas.
(Tick)		√	
Browsing of Vegetation	Natural regeneration of broad-leaved trees taking place with no or little damage to current year's incremental growth.	Broad-leaved saplings present but showing significant damage.	No seedlings growing above dominant vegetation height. Often well defined browse lines on established shrubs and plants.
(Tick)		√	

Comment /Additional; Information

The deer usage of the ground did reduce in the early period of the WGS although, slot marks and pellet groups were relatively easy to find in the areas that provided shelter and the better feeding. This was backed up by the vegetation report in 2005 which indicated some saplings showed little damage to that year's growth.

This year and last year's winters have turned. We have had more snow lying for longer and lower temperatures. This has made access to the ground, for control, very difficult as most access routes have been blocked by snow.
The deer have taken advantage of this and have been using the area of woodlands for shelter during this period. I would expect that browsing / grazing pressure has increased in localised areas.

C) Previous Cull Data

Year	Stags/Bucks	Hinds/Does	Calves/Kids	Totals
2000	24	41	15	80
2001	42	37	14	93
2002	25	19	4	48
2003	11	19	4	34
2004	17	10	7	34
2005	19	13	6	38
2006	16	7	1	24
2007	14	21	6	41
2008	18	12	2	32
2009	17	14	4	35

2010	11	16	4	31
Total	**214**	**209**	**67**	**490**

Comments / Additional Information

In the first 3 years a major effort was put in place to reduce the resident deer population to allow regeneration to take place. It became apparent that the habits of mainly Red deer changed due to the pressure placed. They started to use the woodlands during the night and pushed out to the open hill during the early hours before it became light enough to shoot and out of the agreed cull area.
Out of season licences were applied to aid the control efforts.
Over the ten years the deer have become flightily due to the control pressure, this has resulted in the one shot wonder. To help this sound moderators have been attached to the rifles.

D) Habitat Information

Habitat	**Area**	**Vulnerable to deer pressure**	**Comment**
SAC/SPA	230Ha		
SSSI (Geology, Flora, Fauna)	230Ha		
Vulnerable Crop	368Ha	New planting plus regeneration zone	
Open Hill Ground	440Ha	Control areas	
Internal Open Ground			
Native Woodland	223Ha	No, only regeneration	
Broadleaves			
Conifers	187Ha	No	
Other			

E) Integrated or Adjacent Land Use

	Comment
Existing Woodland	Semi-natural Pine, Birch and European Larch woodland
Mixture of Woodland / Arable Land	N/A
Unimproved Pasture /Open Hill	Managed grouse moor to the South and West of area
Other (Specify)	N/A
Public Access / Recreation Facilities	Public footpath through the western edge of control area, the Queen's drive with a path to the top of Carn nan Sgliat
Deer Road Traffic Issues	Possible parts of the A93 South of Braemar. This will be Monitored, but deer densities are to be reduced
Public Safety issues	Public usage will be monitored, the use of signs will be used if needed

F) Factors which might influence deer use

Issue	Comment	Action
Is the site part of a Red deer wintering area?	Yes	These deer are hefted to the area that is within the proposed fence. We intend to cull these deer.

Immigration / Emigration Knowledge.	Once fence is completed then this will not be an issue	Maintain fences in good working condition
Fence trampling	Trampling around the outside of the deer fence, this may be due to the hefted deer not all being culled and trying to get back home.	Consult with SNH over the compensatory cull for the displaced deer, if this becomes an issue
Licences	The aim is to reduce the deer population within the fence as soon as possible. Due to the terrain this may prove difficult.	Both out of season and night shooting licences will be applied for. This will aid the control measures in the first 2 years
Deer fence Bird strike.	The new march deer fence needs to be in working order to stop deer from entering the area.	The deer fence will be monitored by walking the line once a month. This will allow any damage to be reported and repaired, especially after bad weather. A record of any bird strikes will be kept noting, species and location if possible. The Capercaillie Officer will be consulted about the marking of the fence.
Deer Grid	New cattle grid across the A93	The grid will be constructed to the specification set by the local Council. The Council have had a site visit to recommend a location for the grid. We have moved the fence line to try and avoid any funnel affect.
Health and safety	The public access areas are Creag Choinnich, Queen's Drive and the path up Carn nan Sgliat (locally called Cow Hill)	This will be monitored to see if any conflict occurs during stalking. If this is the case, then signs will be used or stalking in such areas will take place early mornings or late evenings. Rifles are already equipped with sound moderators

G) Evidence of historical / existing damage

(i) Damage to woodlands and habitats

Please refer to the monitoring reports produced by Carol Robertson and A.J.Nolan of the Macaulay research institute dated September 2000 and January 2005

(State any method of assessment eg; transects, fixed plots, fixed point photography)

(ii) Damage to natural heritage interests

SNH undertake Site Condition Monitoring on a 6 year cycle.

(State any method of assessment)-

H Deer Fencing (See FC Guidance Note 11)

Deer Fencing: If deer fencing is proposed explain what measures will be taken if required to compensate for the loss of deer range to ensure its effectiveness. Also highlight whether a risk assessment has been carried out to mitigate against bird strikes.

To reduce the risk of bird strike to the fence we are proposing to mark it with diagonal wooden droppers at a spacing of 50mm – 150mm depending on the exposure of the fence and possible snow drift, with advice taken from Tim Poole the Capercaillie project officer on fence marking design.
The fence once 200m away from the forestry will not be marked as this could add to the risk of damage through the winter months with snow.

The deer fence will be monitored by walking the fence line once a month looking for evidence of bird strike which if possible will be identified and recorded.

Appendix 10 - MONITORING PLAN (Final)

CREAG CLUNIE NATIVE WOODLAND, INVERCAULD ESTATE, BRAEMAR.

Aim and Objective:
The primary aim & objective of the monitoring plan is to undertake a repeatable record of the site conditions at specified locations at agreed times within the first 10 years of the RDC RP scheme to inform any requirement to fine tune the agreed management prescriptions.

Methodology:
To ensure monitoring can be repeated over a period of years by a potentially different surveyor it is suggested that the following principles be adopted in any proposed survey methodology:

1. Survey methods should not demand highly specialist skills or equipment.
2. Methods should be as objective as possible, and so relatively immune to observer bias.
3. Sample plots should be easily found again.
4. Data should be safely stored, readily retrieved and easily interpreted.

The main survey technique recommended is Fixed Point Photography.

Fixed Point Photography is easily repeated and relatively rapid with the aim to produce a set of photographs for future comparison. The recommended technique to undertake Fixed Point Photography is detailed in Scottish Native Woods (1999).

Monitoring Proposals:

Please refer to the following Monitoring Map for the locations.

LICHEN FEATURES

Monitoring Pt 1: G2 (ref. Coppins & Coppins 1999) – Potential expansion of bird cherry via suckering.

Methodology:

In year 1 mark the boundaries of the extent of the birch cherry canopy using wooden (2"x2"x 24 "wooden pegs).

In years 5 & 10 of the scheme record the extent of suckering out with the marked cordon into the surrounding area.

Monitoring Pt 2: G3 (ref. Coppins & Coppins 1999) – Potential establishment of tree regeneration on linear limestone outcrops.

Methodology:

Undertake Fixed Point Photography in years 0, 4 & 8 of the scheme from suggested Fixed Pt NO16889147.

BRYOPHYTE FEATURES

Monitoring Pts 3 a & b: – Designated open ground associated with (a) limestone outcrops (*Stegonia latifolia)* and (b) acidic rocks *(Grimmia incurva).*

Methodology:

Undertake Fixed Point Photography in years 0, 4 & 8 of the scheme.

CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND

Monitoring Pts 4 a & b: – Designated open ground associated with calcareous grassland outcrops and flushes.

Methodology:

Undertake Fixed Point Photography in years 0 & 4 of the scheme.

ARCTOSTAPHYLOS HEATH

Monitoring Pts 5 a, b & c: - Heathland mosaic along ridge between Creag Clunie and Carn nan Sgliat.

Methodology:

Undertake Fixed Point Photography in years 0 & 8 of the scheme.

PLANTS IN CREVICES ON ACID ROCKS

Monitoring Pts 6 a & b: - Rocky outcrops on east facing slopes of Carn nan Sgliat above 540 metres asl.

Methodology:

Undertake Fixed Point Photography from a minimum of 2 to maximum 6 locations in years 0, 4 & 8 of the scheme.

Data Storage:

A complete set of data including photographs and field notes will be retained by Invercauld Estate with duplicate sets lodged with Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

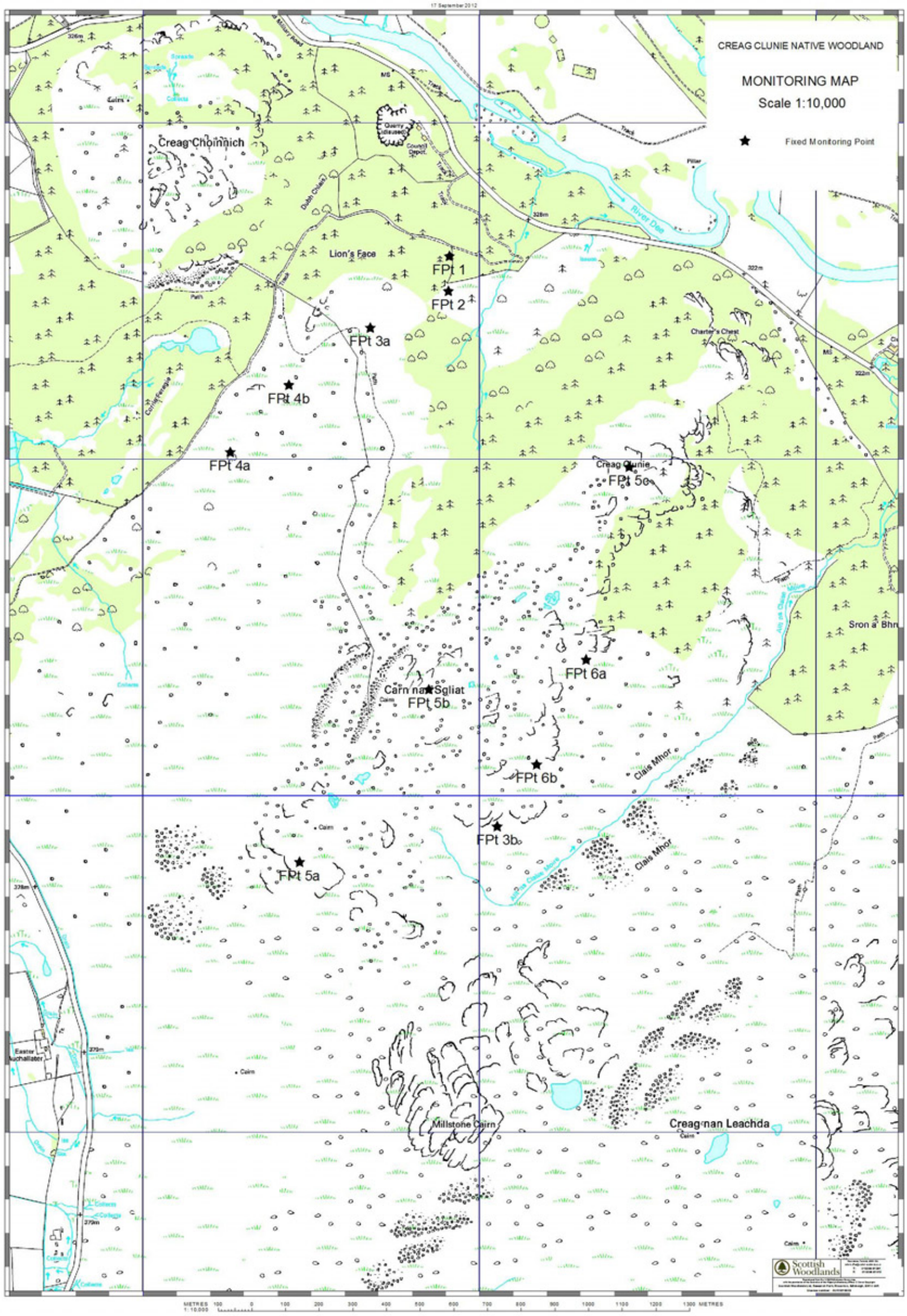
Review:

The monitoring survey results for the areas will be reviewed by Invercauld Estate, Scottish Natural Heritage's Lower Plant Specialist, Forestry Commission Scotland and the forestry agent at year 6 of the scheme.

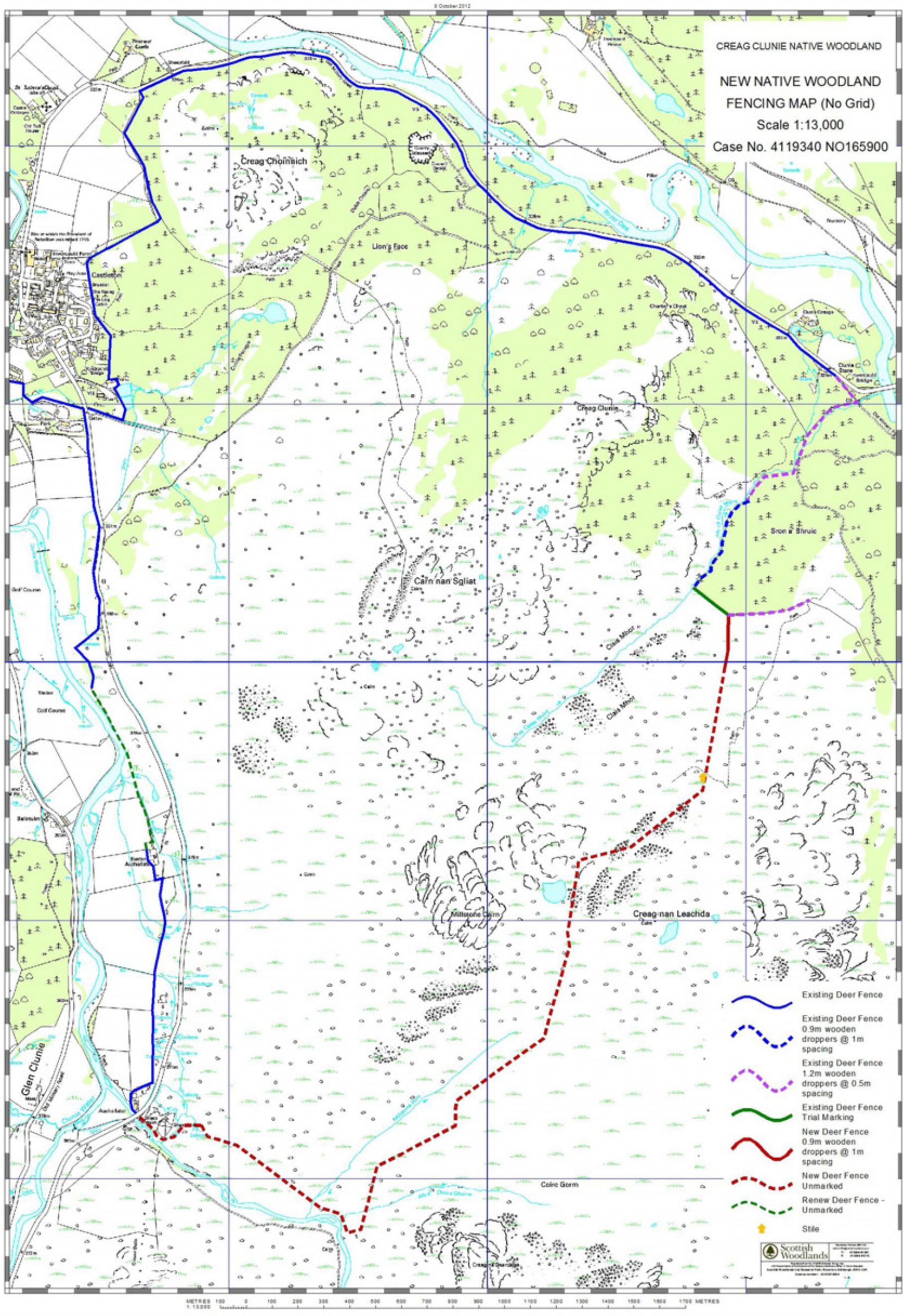
Any tree regeneration identified as having a potential impact on the features will be removed as per an agreement between the Estate and FCS/ SNH.

Reference:

Scottish Native Woods, 1999 *Monitoring Tree Regeneration in Native Woodlands*.


17 September 2012
CREAG CLUNIE NATIVE WOODLAND
MONITORING MAP
Scale 1:10,000
Fixed Monitoring Point
Creag Choinnich
Lion's Face
FPt 1
FPt 2
FPt 3a
FPt 4b
FPt 4a
Creag Clunie
FPt 5c
FPt 6a
Carn nan Sgliat
FPt 5b
FPt 6b
FPt 3b
FPt 5a
Millstone Cairn
Creag nan Leachda
River Dee
Clais Mhor
Sron a' Bhr
Charter's Chest
Easter Auchallater
Scottish Woodlands
METRES 100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 METRES
1:10,000

APPENDIX 11:
– FENCING MAP (NO GRID)



- PLANTING PLAN (NO GRID) MAP