



Forestry Commission Scotland  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Evanton Community Wood  
Long Term Forest Plan

2018 - 2038

## A. Description of Woodlands

### A.1 Property Details

Property Name:	Evanton Community Wood		
Business Reference Number:	206973	Main Location Code:	91/742/0031
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NH 595 665	Nearest town or locality:	Evanton
Local Authority:	Highland Council		
LTFP Plan area (hectares):	63.59ha		
<b>Owner's Details</b>			
Title:		Forename:	
Surname:			
Organisation:	Evanton Community Wood Company	Position:	
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	adrian.clark444@btinternet.com		
Address:	7 Camden Street, Evanton, Dingwall IV16 9XU		
Postcode:		Country:	
<b>Agent's Details</b>			
Title:	Mr	Forename:	Steven
Surname:	Liddle		
Organisation:	Greenbeard Forestry Ltd	Position:	Forester
Primary Contact Number:	07810553226	Alternative Contact Number:	01349 866 757
Email:	steven@greenbeard.uk		
Address:	Munro Sawmills, Old Evanton Road, Dingwall		
Postcode:	IV15 9UN	Country:	U.K



## A.2 Location and Background

Evanton Wood is situated adjacent to the village of Evanton in Easter Ross and provides the scenic wooded backdrop to the village when approaching from the south. The area extends to 63.59 hectares and although the spectacular Black Rock Gorge, recognised as an important remnant of mixed deciduous woodlands that were once more widespread throughout the area, is not included within the ownership area, a section of the gorge is immediately adjacent on the northern boundary.

The woodland was purchased by the community from Novar Estate in 2012. Due to the proximity of the woodland to the village and its high amenity and recreational value there has always been an interest from within the community regarding its management and long-term future.

Past management has created a diverse woodland with a complex structure incorporating a wide range of species and age classes in an intimate mixture. This diversity creates a visually attractive woodland with a wide array of habitats and micro-habitats attractive to a range of species including European Protected Species (EPS) and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species whilst maintaining stands of productive conifers capable of producing a sustainable supply of timber from the site.

This integrated approach to management was recognised in 2003 when Evanton Wood won the Management of Small Woodlands category in the Scottish Finest Woodlands Awards. More recently, the community wood won 2 Scotland's Finest Woodlands Awards: The Schools Award (in conjunction with Dingwall Academy) and the Healthy Lifestyles Award. It also received a Highly Commended accolade from RSPB Nature of Scotland (2016) and was a Finalist in the National Lottery Awards Environment Category (2017).

The community of Evanton aspire to continue this approach to management through a pro-active approach that ensures the enhancement of the recreational and biodiversity features of the woodland whilst ensuring the sustainable management of the timber resource.

This plan outlines the features of interest within the woodland and considers the wider issues associated with the management objectives and the forest management operations required to achieve these objectives.

Information and text from the previous Woodland Management Plan (2009 – 14) has been used where appropriate within this Long Term Forest Plan.



See Map 1: Location

### A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions

Type (e.g. Felling Licence)	Ref. No.	Details
Felling Licence	FLA00919	Thinning Licence for 56.01 Ha. Issued 16/12/15. Expires 03/12/18

### A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Scoping – Main Points	LTFP Reference (section/page):
1. Restoration of the area known as the ridge to encourage Scots pine, Larch and Douglas fir natural regeneration.	C.2.2 Thinning and C.2.5 Restocking Proposals/ Natural Regeneration
2. Restore the woodlands drainage system to maximise the woodland potential especially through the central area of the woodland.	C.2.8 Forest Roads, C.2.9 Public Access, C.2.15 Drainage
3. Improve Silvicultural diversity by management of more invasive species such Common Beech and Western Hemlock, allowing for compartments to be distinctive, dependent on species suitability.	C.2.2 Thinning, C.2.3 LISS
4. Creation of a woodland riparian corridor linking the pond areas with neighbouring meadow habitat, allowing free movement of invertebrates.	C.2.11 Biodiversity
5. Continued improvement of access and amenity facilities, including interpretation and path creation.	C.2.9 Public Access
6. Creation of an arboretum within the woodland for education	C.2.16 Education
7. Clearance of a meadow area at Mags Wood for outdoor education and functions, acting as a funnel for invertebrates into the riparian corridor.	C.2.16 Education
8. Implementation of Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) to enhance the woodland economic return and use for forestry education and understanding.	C.2.2 Thinning, C.2.3 LISS, C.2.5 Restocking Proposals/ Natural Regeneration,
9. Exploration of community driven range of forest products to aid revenue stream, including firewood, arts and crafts and a woodland nursery.	A.5 Management Objectives, B.1. Constraints & Opportunities
10. Continued and enhanced community education hub for all abilities, including forest skills, outdoor education and outreach.	C.2.16 Education



## A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

### Vision

The ultimate aim of this plan is for the community to actively manage the woodland in a manner that maintains, enhances, and perpetuates the existing diverse environment and to develop its value to the community as an educational and recreational resource.

See Map 2: Concept Plan

### Management Objectives

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
1	To generate income streams from timber harvesting in a manner that is sustainable and sympathetic to the management aim.	Compliance with the Felling Map. Felling of compartment 8 and selective thinning of compartments 1-7. Possible output of a range of forest products.
2	To maintain the integrity of the landscape feature that the woodland provides as a backdrop to Evanton village.	Adherence to the felling plan of a Low Impact Silvicultural System for compartments 1 – 7 will ensure there is a continuous cover of woodland.
3	To maintain and enhance the recreational values of the woodland for the community and wider public.	Maintenance of the existing path network. Numbers of visitors to the forest and use of the children's play area next to the cabin.
4	To improve biodiversity within the woodland with particular consideration being given to ensuring the well-being of the resident Red Squirrel population.	Monitoring of protected species.
5	Provide an educational and learning resource for all ages, but particularly young people, through improved interpretation and habitat and species monitoring.	Level of use by schools and community groups
6	To manage the woodland as per the UK Forestry Standard.	All forest operations to comply with maps, prescriptions and standards in approved LTFP.



## A.6 General Site Description

### A.6.1 Topography

An esker ridge runs through the woodland from North West to south East creating steep slopes either side, particularly in compartment 1. The central area of the woodland (compartments 2 and 3) is flatter.

### A.6.2 Geology and Soils

Due to the ridge many of the soils are free draining brown earths and podzols well suited to species such as Douglas fir and Norway spruce with some areas of gleyed soils.

### A.6.3 Climate

The climate of the area is characterised by mild summers and cool wet winters. There is a strong altitudinal effect but at sea level average daily minimum temperature during the winter months is still above zero.

Rainfall is the most important climatic feature with an average of 900-1000mm annual rainfall. The period from July through to January is traditionally the wettest part of the year. This mild and wet climate has also helped tree growth with the potential attainment of high yield classes.

### A.6.4 Hydrology

The north eastern part of the wood slopes down to the Allt Graad river and the western arm consists of a steep slope running down to the Black Rock Gorge. The Allt Cul na Grèine (known locally as the Blayrach burn) runs through the site from south west to north east and joins the Allt Graad at the boundary between compartments 6 and 7. There are two small ponds, one a widening of the stream; the other fed by a new channel (created in 2014 along with dipping platform and stone seat), at the eastern edge of compartment 4 that are undergoing ecological succession and may vegetate in if left unmanaged. Elsewhere there are some small natural wet hollows and also flooded ruts associated with forest vehicles.

### A.6.5 Windthrow

Periodic windblow has resulted in more open pockets and contributed to the current diverse age class structure.

### A.6.6 Adjacent Land Use

To the north of Evanton Community Wood is a mosaic of farmland and forest



plantations mainly owned by the Novar Estate. There is a power station to the north on the opposite side of the Allt Graad river. To the south is farmland and the village of Evanton which lies directly adjacent to the south east of the woodland. The adjacent land use does not affect the management of the woodland.

#### A.6.7 Access

There are several signposted footpaths leading into the woodland from Evanton village and a vehicular access on the north eastern boundary. There is vehicular access and parking for disabled and business visitors.

See Map 3: Access

#### A.6.8 Historic environment

There are no designated archaeological features within Evanton Wood however there is a well which was installed in the late 19th Century to supply the now demolished Balconie House. The site of the well in compartment 2 has been recently renovated by the community council.

In compartment 4 there are the very scant remains of a house which was occupied by "Mags the Wood" (Margaret Munro who lived on in the forester's house as a widow) up until the 1950's.

In the fields adjacent to the western boundary of the property there is a scheduled ancient monument known as the Carn Liath chambered cairn.

In compartment 6 there is Clach a Cholumain. The name translates as 'The Pigeon (or Dove) Stone'.

The wooded gorge that forms the north western boundary of Evanton Wood is listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory as ancient woodland (category 1) which means that it was present on General Roy's military maps of 1750. The main body of the woodland is listed as long-established woodland of plantation origin (category 2b) which means that it has existed since at least 1860. These woodlands are therefore considered to be of local conservation importance.

See Map 4: Hazards and Constraints

#### A.6.9 Biodiversity

Evanton Wood provides a suitable habitat for a wide range of species some of which will be residents of the woodland and others with larger territories may



forage occasionally within the wood. All flora and fauna is protected by a range of legislation and a suite of guidelines for forest operations have been developed to ensure impacts are minimised.

Some species whose populations are under particular threat receive a greater degree of protection. The EU Habitats and Species Directive (1992) provided this and in February 2007 this was revised and now requires forestry operations which could cause an offence, to European Protected Species (EPS), to proceed under licence.

The European Protected Species that are known to occur within or frequent Evanton Wood include Otter and Pipistrelle Bats, it is also possible that the less common Natterer's Bat occurs in the wood and that Scottish Wildcat may visit the woodland rarely.

Both Red Squirrels, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species, and Pine Marten are resident in the wood and although not EPS they are protected under schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act as amended by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. Guidance note 33 will be used with pre-operational visual survey for dreys undertaken prior to felling.

Badgers are also present and badger setts and the badgers themselves are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The mammal survey in Appendix 2 notes the location of a Sett, any works will adhere to the guidance detailed in Forestry Practice Guide 9.

It is quite likely that the need for licensing to carry out forestry operations will be avoided but when planning and implementing works it will be necessary to take account of the risks to these species and their habitats. Survey work will be required prior to operations commencing to identify sensitive sites and to ensure that damage is avoided and disturbance minimised.

See Appendix 2: Phase 2 Survey

#### A.6.10 Invasive Species

There is currently an area of Japanese knotweed to the north of the cabin. It is being monitored and treated by stem injection. There is also a small area of *Rhododendron ponticum*. To reduce risk of further spread of these species, local residents should be informed of the risks of dumping garden waste within the woodland. Western hemlock is present throughout the woodland which will be managed to ensure it does not become a dominant species.

### A.7 Woodland Description



Evanton Wood (63.59 ha), which is located immediately north of Evanton in Ross-shire, consists mainly of mixed plantation with some blocks of conifer plantation and a small area of semi-natural woodland. A burn flows through the site and this has two small ponds associated with it.

The high point of the site lies at an altitude of 78 metres and the southern boundary is defined by an esker ridge. The site has a network of tracks and paths that are well used by local residents and visitors.

The esker ridge to the south is covered largely with planted conifers, with Scots pine and Douglas fir prevalent. There is some broadleaf in the canopy, and this is mainly to be found at the bottom of the slopes either side of the ridge. The ground flora is quite diverse here and this is the only compartment where creeping lady's tresses was found. The south edge of the site abuts many peoples' gardens and there are some issues with dumping of garden waste and, not unrelated, the incursion of non-native plant species. Between the west end of the ridge and the southern boundary is an area that was clear-felled a number of years ago, and has been colonised by birch and willow such that it now resembles a semi-natural woodland.

Most of the rest of the site consists of mixed plantation with Douglas fir, Scots pine, western hemlock, larch, Norway and Sitka spruce as the main conifer species. Many of these trees are very tall and form magnificent specimens, some of considerable girth. Beech is the dominant hardwood although there are smaller proportions of birch, rowan and willow. Parts of the northern sector of the site have recently been planted up with native trees such as rowan, hazel, ash, oak and cherry. The ground flora tends to be dominated by great wood rush and wood sorrel, with high components of mosses such as big shaggy moss and greater fork moss.

The long western arm of the site forming compartment 8 consists of conifer plantation on steep north west facing slopes dropping down to Black Rock Gorge. The main species are Douglas fir and Norway spruce, though at the bottom of the slope, immediately above the gorge, the woodland is much more natural in character, and birch predominates. There is also the oak (on the south boundary), alder (significant in the riparian areas) and holly (mostly smaller undergrowth regeneration but some bigger trees). Here, as might be expected, the ground flora and shrub layer is much more diverse.

The site is largely man-made and the predominant habitats are typical of the local area. Ownership by the community woodland group, however, presents opportunities to promote the more natural attributes of the site, for example by planting of native trees, 3000 of which have been planted since 2012, increasing the component of lying and standing dead wood and by fostering local interest in the conservation of the wood. There has been on going thinning and brashing



throughout the wood, important for improving both its silvicultural and aesthetic value.

See Map 5: Current Species



**Table 1 - Area by species**

This shows the current and future species composition within the entire Long Term Forest Plan area.

Area by species						
Species	Current*		Year 10*		Year 20*	
(Add relevant species groups, or OG/OL)	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
BI	1.02	1.60	1.02	1.60	1.02	1.60
LAR	1.15	1.81	1.15	1.81	1.15	1.81
MB	3.14	4.94	3.14	4.94	3.14	4.94
MB/MC	8.49	13.35	8.49	13.35	8.49	13.35
MC	25.62	40.29	18.84	29.63	18.84	29.63
MC/BE	1.89	2.97	1.89	2.87	1.89	2.87
MC/MB	20.06	31.54	20.06	31.54	20.06	31.54
OG	0.13	0.20	0.13	0.20	0.13	0.20
OL	0.38	0.59	0.38	0.59	0.38	0.59
SP	1.40	2.21	1.40	2.21	1.40	2.21
SS	0.19	0.30	0.19	0.30	0.19	0.30
SYC	0.12	0.19	0.12	0.19	0.12	0.19
NMB			6.78	11.7	6.78	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.59</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>

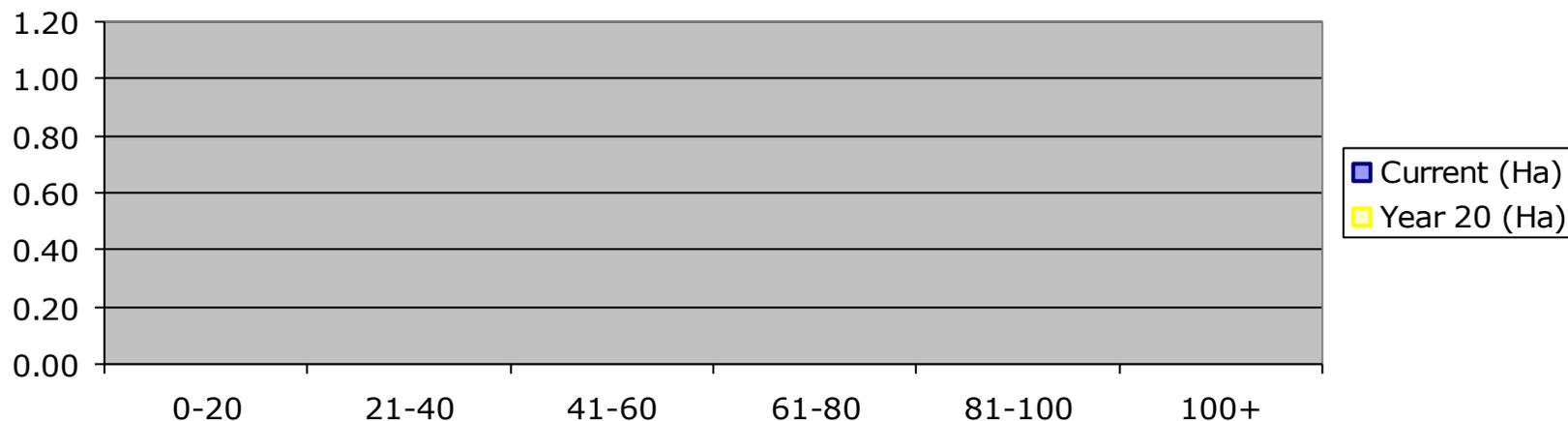
\* Of whole Forest Plan area (including open ground (OG)). Any mixtures such as Mixed Conifer (MC) should be broken down and included as an individual species component where a species occupies more than 10%.



**Table 2 – Area by age**

This shows the woodland area broken down by age class and will show how well the woodland is distributed across the age classes. This information can be provided as a chart below. Double click on the chart below and paste your area figures into the spreadsheet that appears.

Age class (years)	Current	Year 20
	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
0-20	6.58	6.78
21-40	0	6.58
41-60	0	0
61-80	0	0
81-100	0	0
100+	57.01	50.23
<b>Total</b>	63.59	63.59







## A.8 Plant Health

There are no known plant health issues at present however as the woodland contains a significant proportion of Scots pine and larch, biosecurity is of high importance to reduce the risk of infection of *Phytophthora ramorum* in larch and *Dothistroma* needle blight in Scots pine. Forestry Commission guidelines on biosecurity will be adhered to during any forestry works.

## B. Analysis of Information

### B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Public Access	With a good network of paths, the wood experiences a high level of public access. Safety of forest users will need to be taken into account prior to any forest operations being carried out.	The opportunity to educate the community about forest management and safety precautions. Ensure that there are no physical restrictions to public access at gates into forest at any time. Use of warning signage is standard, and a suitable diversionary route can be used if there is a risk of public being harmed by operations. See Map 3: Access
Protected Species	Potential presence of otters, badgers, bats and wildcats.	Undertake pre-felling surveys within potentially suitable habitats. Legislative and Best Practise guidelines to avoid disturbance or habitat damage will be followed during all forest operations.
Landscape	The wood provides a backdrop to the village of Evanton.	Implementation of a Continuous Cover silvicultural system.
Deer	Potential for damage to young trees caused by deer browsing.	Damage to be monitored and culling may be necessary if damage reaches levels which prevent successful natural regeneration.
Wayleaves	Several way-leaves cross the woodland area including 2 high voltage electricity	Protection measures will be required when working in the vicinity of these way-leaves.



	<p>transmission lines passing through compartment 8, 1 on the boundary between compartments 6 and 8 and a lower voltage line in compartment 1.</p> <p>A pipeline carrying a public water supply from Glen Glass to Evanton passes through the extreme SE corner of compartment 7 and travels adjacent to the forest road for approximately 240metres.</p>	<p>See Map 4: Hazards and Constraints</p>
Archaeology	<p>There are several archaeological sites within the woodland.</p>	<p>Operations will follow UKFS guidance in protecting and enhancing any features identified on operational sites.</p> <p>See Map 4: Hazards &amp; Constraints</p>
Revenue	<p>Maintenance of woodland infrastructure and services require a stream of income.</p>	<p>Exploration of community driven range of forest products to aid revenue stream, including firewood, arts and crafts and a woodland nursery.</p>
<p>Outline how you intend to incorporate the constraints and opportunities into the management objectives.</p>		
<p>Objective 1 'To generate income streams from timber harvesting in a manner that is sustainable and sympathetic to the management aim.' reflects the opportunities identified under 'Revenue'.</p> <p>Objective 2 'To maintain the integrity of the landscape feature that the woodland provides as a backdrop to Evanton village.' Takes into account the factor of Landscape.</p> <p>Objective 3 'To maintain and enhance the recreational values of the woodland for the community and wider public.' Recognises the opportunities under Public Access and Archaeology.</p> <p>Objective 4 'To improve biodiversity within the woodland with particular consideration being given to ensuring the well-being of the resident Red Squirrel population.' Reflects the constraints and opportunities listed under Protected Species and Deer.</p>		



Objective 5 'Provide an educational and learning resource for all ages, but particularly young people, through improved interpretation and habitat and species monitoring.' Incorporates the factors of Public Access and Protected Species.

## C. Management Proposals

### C.1 Silvicultural Practice

The silvicultural policy to be adopted over the next 20 years has been selected to achieve the long-term objectives of the LTFP.

A Low Impact Silvicultural System will be implemented across the main forest area (compartments 1 – 7) and restocking will be achieved through natural regeneration and underplanting.

The woodland has been managed under LISS and a combination of periodic windblow events and thinning operations have created a diverse age class structure and species mix.

Landscape impact will be minimised through the use of LISS, with improved landscape continuity along the River Glass with restructuring to NBL in line with woodland above and below Evanton Wood.

### C.2 Prescriptions

#### C.2.1 Felling

The only section of woodland planned to be clearfelled within the duration of the forest plan is compartment 8. This is a mature stand of mixed conifers.

Felling method is influenced largely by terrain and steepness. The area will be harvested using purpose built hillclimber and/ or standard configurations of harvester and forwarder.

All trees within marked clearfell boundaries, as per coupes indicated on felling map, will be felled to as low a stump as practicable. Coupe boundaries will be aligned with natural features such as burns or open ground where practicable to utilise windfirm green edges and create new ones.

Brash mats will be used to reduce ground compaction and soil damage from mechanised harvesting equipment. Lop and top/brash will be placed in narrow rows at maximum intervals required for effective plant operation, to reduce visual impact and loss of productive restock area.



Diffuse pollution will be minimised via operational site planning as per UKFS Water Guidelines, and through silt management measures such as silt traps, sumps and filtration as required. The compartment is on a steep slope at the bottom of which flows the river Allt Graad within the Black Rock Gorge. It will therefore be of high importance to ensure that these guidelines are adhered to.

See Map 6: Felling and Thinning

### C.2.2 Thinning

Compartments 1-7 will be thinned by selecting individual trees with consideration to the character of the compartment to meet the management objectives this will mainly be Crown/Dominant & Sub-Dominant thinning. As outlined in the scoping points, in order to prevent the over dominance of more shade tolerant species including beech and western hemlock it will be necessary to fell some of the larger seed trees to reduce the levels of natural regeneration of these species. This is necessary as part of the restoration of the area known as the ridge in compartment 1 and will be of particular importance in areas which have indicators and remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland such as riparian areas.

Felling and thinning will be motor manually completed as topography, tree size and retained stems mean mechanical systems will not be suitable.

Extraction will be performed using low ground pressure methodology to prevent damage to root systems during thinning. A Mini forwarder with a maximum load capacity of 4 tonnes (Falcon F40) along with horse extraction will be used.

UKFS Forest and Water Guidelines will be adhered to during any operational work.

See Map 6: Felling and Thinning

### C.2.3 LISS

#### LOW IMPACT SILVICULTURAL SYSTEMS

LISS are a silvicultural management option where non-standard harvesting and restocking operations are desirable. LISS management relies on natural regeneration from seed trees to establish young crops, and on selective thinning and small-scale harvesting to promote a stable and sustainable forest structure.

Areas identified for LISS also require good soil and a good access network or the criteria required to develop one in future. Whilst Evanton Wood has suffered from windblow in the past, previous management has demonstrated that the woodland is suitable for LISS.

Compartments 1 – 7 are currently managed under LISS and after the clear fell



and restock of compartment 8, the entire woodland will be managed under LISS with no final felling planned within the plan period.

Thinning will be implemented by individual and small groups of 2-5 tree's, with marking by the forester, selecting crown dominant beech to free up small areas for regeneration of key MC species including DF, EL, SS and SP. Generally thinning will leave small coup areas of 10-30m<sup>2</sup> but is dependent on trees removed.

See Map 6: Felling and Thinning

#### C.2.4 Long Term Retentions (LTR) / Natural Reserves

Due to the diverse structure and implementation of a Low Impact Silvicultural System, compartments 1 to 7 contain trees which have been significantly retained beyond their economic felling age. Therefore, these compartments can be considered Long Term Retentions. This area accounts for 88% of the woodland. There are no Natural Reserves within the woodland as all compartments are actively managed.

#### C.2.5 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration

Compartment 8 will be restocked within 3 years of felling with native broadleaves (from seed zone 201) planted at a density of 1600 stems/ha. Prior to planting the site will be mounded. The restock will be beaten-up to maintain stocking density and will be established at year 5. Once restocked the Cpt will be a natural reserve for biodiversity due to the close proximity of the riparian catchment.

Natural Regeneration and underplanting will be the main methods of ensuring a diverse age structure. It is anticipated that ground preparation will not be required in many regeneration zones however this will be monitored and if required, scarification or excavator mounding will be used to create the correct conditions for successful regeneration at a target rate of 2500 stems per ha. Presently there is a high density of beech and western hemlock natural regeneration at approximately 5000 stems per ha. Groups of volunteers will continue with the removal of the regeneration to prevent these species from becoming dominant.

Scots pine, Douglas fir and Sitka Spruce and European larch will be prioritised in Cpt 1 known as the ridge. These are present in small areas where windblow has occurred. Stocking density will be monitored annually with the aim of 2500 stems per ha being achieved. In terms of ranking the preference will be SP, DF, EL then SS, Beech NN will be pulled by volunteers.

Compartment 4c will be managed to favour Downy birch regeneration and Sessile oak, with a target of 1800 stems per ha. The spread of beech in this compartment will be managed to preserve and enhance the current native woodland species mosaic.



Where planting has taken place Tubes and stakes have been used to protect against browsing from Roe deer and rabbits. To date 2500 stems have been planted throughout the woodland to improve the species mosaic.

See Map 7: Restocking

### Table 3 – Felling

This shows the scale of felling within the felling phases in the context of the whole Forest Plan. This includes any areas of 'LISS – Fell' (i.e. removal of final overstorey).

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)													
Total Forest Plan Area:		63.59		hectares									
Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	Long Term Retention	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%	
Area (Ha)	6.78	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	56.30	89	0	0	

### Table 4 – Thinning

This shows the area of thinning over the first 10 years of the Forest Plan.

Species	Thinning (ha)
BI	1.02
LAR	1.15
MB	3.14
MB/MC	8.49
MC	18.84
MC/BE	1.89
MC/MB	20.06



SP	1.40
SS	0.19
SYC	0.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.30</b>

### Table 5 – Restocking

This table provides information on the restocking proposals for the first 10 years of your Forest Plan.

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species to be planted	Area (ha) to be planted
1	8	NMB	6.78
<b>Total Restocking Area</b>			6.78



#### C.2.6 Protection

Roe deer are present in Evanton Wood all year round and Sika deer occasionally frequent the western extremity. Browsing and fraying by deer can significantly damage young trees resulting in more expensive establishment costs and deformed stems.

The high level of dog walking that occurs in the woodland is a significant deterrent to deer and damage close to well used tracks and pathways is minimal. In the quieter areas limited browsing and fraying damage does occasionally occur. This impact is assessed by the Woodland Management Group and Greenbeard Forestry on a monthly basis. If during the monthly visual assessment damage is deemed to be too high then culling will be implemented by a suitably qualified contractor as per SNH's fit and competent register.

Restocking of compartment 8 and any underplanting throughout the woodland will be protected by the use of 1.2m tubes.

#### C.2.7 Fence erection / removal

The use of fencing to exclude browsing animals is not appropriate for a low impact system with small scale and widespread regeneration areas therefore no fencing works are planned during the plan period.

#### C.2.8 Road Operations

The existing forest road network will be resurfaced and drainage maintained as necessary. Highland Councils TEC dept will be contacted prior to extraction of timber onto the B187 road, which links to the A9. The Evanton Community Woodland have rights of access through the Caravan Park from September through to April for timber transport (As shown in Appendix 5, Access Map).

#### C.2.9 Public Access

The existing good path network will be maintained as necessary primarily by the work of volunteers. Interpretation boards throughout the woodland provide maps showing paths and there is good signage throughout the woodland.

The amenity value of the woodland has also been enhanced by the creation of a play area, cabin, composting toilet and seating and picnic tables.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) guidance will be the baseline standard adhered to for recreation and public access.

During woodland operations signposted diversions will be in place to ensure site safety is maintained.



See Map 3: Access

#### C.2.10 Historic Environment

Management of the woodland will continue to protect and enhance archaeological features and veteran trees. The use of the Gaelic place names for rivers, pools, woodland and other features is promoted wherever possible.

The archaeological features listed in section A.6.8 will be protected during any forest operations by marking a protection zone. UKFS Guidelines will be adhered to

The implementation of a Low Impact Silvicultural System will help to protect veteran trees and ancient woodland features by providing continuous forest cover and ensuring minimum disturbance to soil structure and ground vegetation.

See Map 4: Hazards and Constraints

#### C.2.11 Biodiversity

The Low Impact Silvicultural System to be applied in Evanton Wood has an inherent benefit for most of the wildlife living in and around the woodland. Although the system involves regular harvesting operations the nature of these operations ensures a stable woodland environment where dramatic changes in stand structure are avoided.

The enhancement of biodiversity will be a major feature in the planning of all operations with particular consideration being given to the European Protected Species and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Otters will use the river and its tributaries for foraging and may have holts or "lying up" areas in the wood. Care will be taken during all operations to ensure minimal disturbance to riverbanks. The FCS Guidance Note 35c: Forest operations and otters in Scotland will be followed.

Bats will use rot holes and cracks in mature trees both as maternity roosts and as hibernacula. Whilst it is more common for them to be present in mature broadleaves, large conifers may also provide opportunities for bats particularly if there is a double leader. The mature Beech, Sitka Spruce, Douglas Fir and Oak in Evanton Wood will provide suitable roosts for bats and suitable trees will be identified and retained in the long term.



Red Squirrels are an important feature of the woodland and it is a key objective of management to maintain and enhance conditions for this iconic species. The continuing use of a LISS and maintaining a wide range of tree species and age classes in Evanton Wood are vital to the survival of this local population.

The LISS ensures a stable woodland environment and the wide range of tree species and age classes ensures a wide range of habitats and a regular and varied food supply.

Deadwood is an important and often under-represented feature of non-native woodlands. Standing dead trees and fallen debris provide a wide range of microhabitats creating suitable conditions for fungi, lichens, invertebrates and mosses. Where they do not pose a risk to public safety dead and dying trees will be retained to increase this valuable habitat.

The entire woodland is designated as Long-Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO), however, ground flora particularly in riparian areas is indicative of an ancient semi-natural woodland site (See Appendix 2 – Phase 2 Survey). To enhance the biodiversity of these areas it is the intention to create a woodland riparian corridor linking the pond areas with neighbouring meadow habitat, allowing free movement of invertebrates. This will be achieved by clearing exotic conifer regeneration and creating gaps in the canopy to allow flora to flourish, enabling good flight corridors and flowering plants for invertebrates in general.

#### C.2.12 Tree Health

There are no known plant health issues at present however as the woodland contains a significant proportion of Scots pine and larch, biosecurity is of high importance to reduce the risk of infection of *Phytophthora ramorum* in larch and *Dothistroma* needle blight in Scots pine. Forestry Commission guidelines on biosecurity will be adhered to during any forestry works.

#### C.2.13 Invasive species

There is an area of Japanese knotweed to the north of the cabin. It is being monitored and treated by stem injection. There is also a small area of *Rhododendron ponticum* which will be removed. To ensure no further spread of invasive species local residents should be informed of the dangers of dumping garden waste within the woodland.

#### C.2.14 New Planting

The entire ownership area is currently under woodland cover therefore no new planting is planned.



<b>C.2.15 Other:</b>	<b>Drainage</b>
<p>The woodlands drainage system will be restored to maximise the woodland potential especially through the central area of the woodland. This will be done in accordance with the UKFS Water Guidelines. This is essential for maintenance of good footpaths and for the continued growth of certain tree species which require freely draining soils such as Douglas fir. Prior to any drainage works being carried out, the implications to biodiversity will be assessed.</p> <p>A 33Kv pylon runs through Cpt 8 and any associated felling works will require a scheduled shut down of the line through SSE to allow safe working practice within the red zone.</p>	

<b>C.2.16 Other:</b>	<b>Education</b>
<p>A key aim of the woodland’s management is to provide an educational resource for the local community. The woodland is used by Dingwall Primary and Kiltearn Primary and other schools and nurseries<sup>7</sup> to educate pupils on environmental issues and by various community groups. Volunteers support the maintenance of existing facilities and interpretation boards. There have been discussions exploring the possibility of creating an arboretum area and/or the possibility of creating a waymarked walk with interpretation boards next to existing specimen trees.</p>	

### C.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitted Development Notifications

Please indicate the total area (hectares) for each project type and provide details as requested by sensitive or non-sensitive area.					
Type of Project	Sensitive Area		Non-sensitive Area		Total
Afforestation	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	0ha
Deforestation	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	0ha
Forest Roads	ha		ha		0ha
Quarries	ha		ha		0ha
Provide further details on your project if required.					

	<b>Map Required (Y/N)</b>	<b>Adjustment to felling period*</b>	<b>Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries**</b>	<b>Timing of Restocking</b>	<b>Changes to Restocking species</b>	<b>Changes to road lines</b>	<b>Designed open ground ***</b>	<b>Windblow Clearance* ***</b>
<b>FC Approval normally not required</b>	N	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met	Up to 10% of coupe area	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers or broadleaves		Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
<b>Approval by exchange of email and map</b>	Y		Up to 15% of coupe area	Between 2 and 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised		Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan  Departures of more than 60m in either direction from centre line of road	Increase by up to 10%  Any reduction in open ground within coupe area	Up to 5 ha
<b>Approval by formal plan amendment may be required</b>	Y	Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period  Advance felling into current or 2 <sup>nd</sup> 5 year period	More than 15% of coupe area	More than 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised	Change from specified native species  Change between species group	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 10% of coupe area  Colonisation of open areas agreed as critical	More than 5 ha

**Note**

\*Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS in particular felling coupe adjacency. Felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS at 5 year review.

\*\* No more than 1 ha, without consultation with FCS, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) 1999 Regulations (EIA).

\*\*\* Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum of 20% designed open ground.

\*\*\*\*Where windblow occurs, FCS must be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on clearance of any standing trees.





## Appendix 1 Scoping Report



## Appendix 2 Tim Dawson Survey Report



## Appendix 3 Compartment Schedule



## Appendix 4 Maps



## Appendix 5 Access Plan