

Appendix 9 – Opportunities and Constraints

(See also Maps 6a and 6b)

SCHOOL WOOD

Resource	Key Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Indicators for Objectives
Amenity	Differentiate School Wood from surrounding plantation forest / woodlands and from Milton Wood.	Consolidate informal social role of School Wood		Enhance footpath signage. Integrate path network with other local paths adjacent.
		Seek to integrate social role of SCW with other local community organisations.	Sensitivity with local neighbours.	Maintain / foster links to Farr School, Strathnairn Community Council, Care in Strathnairn, Highland Council Rangers
Landscape	Integrate internal forest design with external landscape.	Enhance presently concealed views with access to viewpoints.		Open up views from Knoll to North. Enhance additional viewpoints. Foster relationships with neighbouring landowners.
Conservation	Improve conservation value of woodland by varying structure / age.	Use low impact silviculture (thinning) towards possible Scot's pine regeneration in long term. Encourage broadleaf regeneration taking place.		Prevent excessive beech regeneration. Enhance wetland habitats. Remove tree saplings from wetland area to retain its wetter characteristics.
Social / Cultural / Education	Improve amenity value.	Enhance any known archaeological features.		Collate any available information on the woodland from living memories (Strathnairn Heritage Association).
		Raise individuals' knowledge of woodlands		Install appropriate interpretation.

MILTON WOOD

Resource	Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Indicators for Objectives
Landscape	Integrate internal forest design with the external landscape.	Low impact silviculture where appropriate.	Windthrow risk. Unstable mature Norway spruce. Un-thinned mature Douglas Fir sheltering mature Scot's pine. Sensitivity with neighbours.	Longer term continuous cover forestry in Scot's pine. Enhance internal and external focal viewpoint locations.
Amenity	Differentiate SCW Milton Wood from surrounding plantation forest/woodlands. Give Milton its own identity.	Enhance presently concealed views by opening up viewpoints		Enhance footpath signage. Install benches at scenic locations e.g. along river, and on internal raised embankments.
Conservation	Enhance biodiversity Improve conservation value of woodland habitat through choice of tree species and through location of planting.	(i) Improve habitat value of riparian woodland at edge of Milton Wood. (ii) Develop riparian habitat along River Nairn as a riparian corridor linking other habitats together. Enhance red squirrel habitat.		(i) Enhance alder regeneration, retain deadwood, enhance broadleaf regeneration. (ii) Prevent Sitka spruce regeneration dominating. (iii) Enhance natural broadleaved regeneration taking place. (i) Promote Scot's pine regeneration and Norway spruce planting. (ii) Remove undesirable exotics e.g. rhododendron. (iii) Prevent bracken canopy dominance.
Cultural	Promote local cultural/social role of the woodland.	Enhance known archaeological features		Remove ash regeneration from farm croft. Collate any available information on the woodland from living memories

Applicant's Guidance

Economy

Environment

Table 4 - Tolerance table

	Adjustment to felling period*	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of Restocking	Changes to species	Changes to road lines	Designated open ground **
FC Approval normally not required	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period. Where separation or other constraints are met	1.0 ha or 10% of coupe area – whichever is less	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group eg evergreen conifers or broadleaves		Location of temporary open ground eg deer glades if still within overall open ground design Increase by 0.5 ha or 5% of area - whichever is less
Approval by exchange of letters and map		1.0 ha to 5 ha or 10% of coupe area – whichever is less			Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of > 60m in either direction from centre line of road	Increase of 0.5 ha to 2 ha or 10% - whichever is less Any reduction in open ground
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period Advance felling into current or 2nd 5 year period 	> 5 ha or 10% of coupe area	Over 2 planting seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species group		More than 2 ha or 10% Any reduction in open ground in sensitive areas Colonisation of open areas agreed as critical

Note - * Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS advice on adjoining crops. Felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS at mid term review

** Tolerances subject to an overriding maximum of 20% open ground