

## 5.2 Master Mitigations List for Glen Dye Moor

30 August 2024

The lists which follow outline the key site specific mitigations developed in response to consultation feedback, site surveys, and statutory review. Where mitigations are direct benefits to the community, these are **highlighted in Green**.

### Ground Preparation, Cultivation (A)

#### Mitigations to protect water

- A01 No new drains will be installed
- A02 Only low impact ground preparation techniques will be implemented. Where native species are planted these will be non-linear to ensure more natural planting patterns.
- A03 A diffuse pollution control plan will be prepared for each site in advance of start of operations. Operations will follow Scottish Woodlands protocols for diffuse pollution planning and wet weather working to reduce erosion and prevent diffuse pollution from entering watercourses. An overarching Diffuse Pollution Plan has been compiled which identifies sensitivities, risk factors, and key issues on site.
- A04 No mechanical ground preparation within 5m of small watercourses (up to 1m in width) or within 10m of medium watercourses (1-2m in width) or within 20m of large watercourses (over 2m in width).
- A05 Ground preparation method will be in line with soil sensitivities and as shown on the Ground Preparation Map
- A06 All constraints maps will display the SAC boundary where present
- A07 Good biosecurity practices for all machinery and equipment entering the site must be carried out to reduce risk of spreading invasive non-native species, pests, and disease. Industry standard practices for biosecurity will be referenced in all contract materials issued to operators.
- A08 Commitment to best practice guidance from Scottish Water relating to DWPAs, for example storage of fuels at least 50m from watercourses within the DWPA.

#### Mitigations to protect wildlife and their habitats

- A09 Operational timing restrictions during breeding seasons
  - Specific to each species and breeding site, safe working distances during breeding/lekking/nesting periods will be in line with current good practice, breeding seasons and general safe working distances are noted below but will be adjusted based on site specific settings:

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Species	Breeding Season	Safe Working Distances
Black grouse	March – August (leks April - May)	100-150m (from nest) 500-750m (from lek)
Curlew	April – July	200-300m (from nest)
Merlin	April – August	300-500m (from nest)
Goshawk	Mid March – Mid August	300-500m (from nest)
Peregrine falcon	March – Mid August	500-750m (from nest)
Short-eared owl	March – Mid August	300-500m (from nest)

A c. [REDACTED] to ensure operations are planned to avoid potential disturbance during the breeding season Feb-Aug. This will be reviewed and adjusted annually as/when conditions change.

A10 On sensitive habitats, if planting is proposed, ground preparation will be carried out using low intensity methods. This is illustrated in the Soil Sensitivity Map and the Ground Preparation Map.

Ground preparation methods chosen for planting will be guided by the ‘Cultivation of Upland Woodland Creation Sites – Applicants Guide’ to ensure methods chosen to represent the lowest feasible impact reducing risk of carbon loss.

A11 All GWDTEs will be protected in line with industry guidance ‘Practice guide for forest managers to assess and protect GWDTEs when preparing woodland creation proposals’ dated January 2018.

A12 No ground preparation will occur in areas where Natural Regeneration is proposed though light scarification may be utilised where vegetation is shown to limit success as evidenced through annual monitoring.

### Mitigations to protect cultural heritage

A13 No ground preparation will occur within areas planned as designed open ground around archaeological features. This is shown within the detailed Species Maps.

A14 Operators will be inducted onto worksites and ensure they remain vigilant for any cultural heritage features or artefacts not previously discovered.

### Mitigations to protect landscape character & special qualities

A15 Only non-linear ground preparation methods will be used, as defined within the ‘Cultivation for Upland Productive Woodland Creation Sites -Applicants Guide’ from Scottish Forestry. No high intensity ground preparation methods will be used on site.

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### Species Choice (B)

#### Mitigations to protect water

- B01 Planting of native species and natural regeneration (where seed sources exist) around riparian areas where suited to site to increase shading, reduce summer temperatures, provide nutrient input through leaf fall and recruit deadwood.
- B02 Planting of a transitional 'wet woodland' mix within 20m of ground water dependant terrestrial ecosystems, GWDTEs, (creating an ecotone between dense planting and GWDTEs). This will be planted at a variable density incorporating gaps within the canopy while meeting the average stocking density required by funding contracts.
- B03 Approximately 60,000 metres of watercourses will be afforested with riparian species through a mixture of planting and natural regeneration, this equates to over 50% of all the watercourses on site which currently do not have a woodland cover. This is shown on the species map.
- B04 No commercial conifer planting will occur within the 20m buffer. GWDTEs will not be planted.
- B05 All constraints maps will display the River Dee SAC boundary where present
- B06 Around the River Dee SAC, bankside native woodland creation will take place and natural regeneration will be encouraged through a programme to reduce deer densities.
- B07 Standard minimum protection buffers from watercourses will be expanded where this improves protection of site sensitivities. Standard buffers are 10m-20m, expanded up to an additional 50m where suited to conditions as shown in Figure 1. Along tributaries to the Burn of Greendams, a minimum buffer greater than the standard will be provided from conifer planting as shown in Figure 1.
- B08 Riparian woodlands (along riverbanks and around watercourses) will be created with the following species composition where planting is proposed. Willow (40%), alder (25%), birch (25%), other underrepresented species such as aspen, hazel, holly, etc. (10%).  
Where the project boundary limits woodland creation to a single side of a watercourse, planting design will aim to look patchy with open gaps and a feathered edge to avoid creating an unnatural one-sided appearance while still ensuring riparian woodland improvements can be accomplished.

#### Mitigations to protect wildlife habitat

- B09 Integrated open ground networks within curlew and merlin breeding bird territories, key merlin breeding territories will include open corridors and the overall area enclosed within the perimeter fence will limit planting to no more than 60% of the total area.

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- B10 In areas with dense curlew breeding, site specific guidance found in the Curlew Assessment Summary, as agreed with RSPB, will be followed along with current guidance note 'Woodland Creation and Curlew' produced by Scottish Forestry. Every territory was individually reviewed and the designed woodland will be planted as shown on the species map. Opportunities to maximize open corridors to the greatest extent feasible are taken as per the species map. Alternative habitats within areas of degraded peat are proposed for restoration as a separate project proposal. Areas of low density native planting are proposed in targeted locations around active territories. Vegetation management, where feasible will be implemented around the rifle range area. Less than five active territories are planned for planting with no alternative habitat available.
- B11 Planting used to strategically screen breeding site of peregrine falcon [REDACTED] and encourage recreational users to stay on main route to Clachnaben.
- B12 Species design complements Black Grouse habitat needs including connected open corridors and mixed density woodland comprised of varying woodland types. Native woodland mosaics proposed will benefit black grouse and peatland restoration (proposed under a separate project) will improve habitat.
- B13 Designed open ground around known sensitive and rare plants.
- B14 Planting of montane willow scrub woodlands at high elevations in low density
- B15 A Peat Depth Survey has informed eligible planting areas, there will be no planting on areas identified as deep peat 50cm or more. Contiguous areas of mappable deep peat will be provided a 20m buffer within which low density native wet woodland species may be planted or allowed to naturally regenerate using low impact cultivation techniques.
- B16 Caledonian pinewood (W18) and Upland Birch (W4) species will be planted around breeding bird territories (300-500m as suited to topography) as shown on the Species Map
- B17 Planting density of W18 and W4 areas is adjusted to be variable with semi-open to open canopy around curlew and merlin breeding bird territories (generally within 300-500m of breeding sites)
- B18 A c. [REDACTED] to ensure operations are planned to avoid potential disturbance during the breeding season Feb-Aug. Within 500m of known sensitive sites, an open canopy is planned to compliment existing native woodland cover present, this will mimic the native woodlands which would naturally occur in this location if herbivore pressures were absent. This will be demonstrated on the Species Map.
- B19 Prey habitat enhancement will result from planting of low-density woodland, montane scrub, and semi-open variable canopy native woodlands, supporting a sustained prey community for raptors including golden eagles. Approximately 20% open habitat will be retained through linked corridors suitable for hunting/foraging by raptors.

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- B20 A Wildfire Management Plan will incorporate species design elements to reduce risk of fire. This will include non-wooded corridors, maintaining low grazing pressure within the fenced enclosure, creating defensible spaces around structures, and similar measures. Key findings of the Wildfire Management Plan will be added to the Glen Dye Moor website.
- B21 Within the productive conifer element of the proposal, a *minimum* of 10% native species composition will be included in the planting design. The single species mix of the main conifer species will be no greater than 65% and the project area where productive conifer is planned at a landscape scale. Also within productive areas of the landscape, management for biodiversity as a main objective will encompass at least 15% of the area. This composition exceeds UKFS (v5) minimum standards, it meets UKWAS (v5) standards and fits within the local Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy.
- B22 Species choice is informed by Ecological Site Classification and Forest Development Models in conjunction with site assessment of soils and moisture levels. Productive species Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Scots pine, and Douglas fir are modelled to be the most suited to local climate predictions. Only species which are shown as suitable within Forest Development Models or Ecological Site Classification models have been selected for planting reducing risk of carbon loss through afforestation.
- B23 Corridors of open ground are proposed as shown on the 'Constraints Map Wildlife Confidential', these have been targeted along areas with high likelihood of predicted eagle usage. Low density and variable density woodland of native species is proposed across approximately 71% of the planting area (equivalent to around one third of the enclosed area). These design features are aimed at improving prey community diversity and abundance while also ensuring foraging flight corridors are preserved with good lines of sight. [REDACTED], low density planting will be carried out to complement existing tree cover already present. This planting will mimic what would naturally occur over time in the absence of herbivore pressure.
- B24 Control of predators on the site will reduce pressure on prey communities. Predator Control will follow a Predator Control Plan for Glen Dye Moor.
- B25 Species design complements Goshawk due to the expansion of their available nesting. A mosaic of planting types (both species and density) will provide varied habitats for foraging.
- B26 Species design complements Short-eared owl foraging needs with a native woodland mosaic of varying and low-density planting proposed.

### Mitigations to protect landscape character & special qualities

- B27 Clachnaben is provided a significant amount of designed open ground. Planting is set back to an appropriate distance to ensure views to/from the important landmark are not obscured and it remains prominent in the landscape. Approach paths to Clachnaben have also been afforded open corridors to ensure a 'revealing' view is provided and a sense of enclosure is not created which would compromise views of Clachnaben.

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- B28 Natural Regeneration is proposed where seed sources of the desired species are present and where regeneration can be expected within a five-year period in order to accomplish afforestation targets within required timeframes and within the landscape.
- B29 Productive conifer will be planted where it links with existing neighbouring plantations and will utilise Scots pine in other areas to ensure a sympathetic visual setting interlocked within existing land use and landforms.
- B30 Woodland creation around the Charr Bothy is planned to ensure the setting and scenic qualities are maintained. Long views east-northeast are planned to ensure the Water of Dye and glen are visible within a variable mosaic of native woodland.
- B31 A Landscape Review has been completed.
- B32 Proportion of planting will aim for one third commercial species and two thirds native species.
- B33 Relic glacial and fluvial landforms (LNCS) are not degraded either through ground disturbance, or through planting resulting in obscuring these features from view. An area of potential relic landforms near Greendams is provided protection through the application of open ground.
- B34 10m buffers, extending to 20m buffers around long houses, where no planting will occur have been established around identified archaeological features. Complementary planting of native species within enclosures is limited to an extent to preserve the historic setting of these field systems. Planting, where proposed within enclosures, will be direct with only surface screening. Interconnectivity of open corridors around archaeological features is also in place where this enhances user experience and understanding of the cultural setting.
- B35 Further unplanted open areas and corridors around archaeological sites have been linked with other sensitivities such as breeding birds or landscape viewpoints to further enhance the user experience and understanding of the site.
- B36 Organic edges and shapes have been created through planting, though there is a desire to have margins reflect smooth gently curving landforms, environmental conditions restrict planting in places and overly complicated edges are created where planting cannot follow a smooth line. Commercial forest shapes have been interlocked where possible into existing forestry edges of neighbouring woodland.
- B37 Woodlands have been drawn up valleys where ground conditions allow and roll across saddles and ridges at lower elevations.
- B38 Montane willow scrub will be used in the most isolated high altitude planting to better suit the setting. A feathered edge will also be created along upper margins to provide a greater sense of scale in the transition from open hill to woodland. At lower elevations intimate mixtures of open ground and woodland will complement the smaller scale of the landscape here.
- B39 Throughout the design, visual diversity is limited to environmental conditions and opportunities are taken to create montane woodland at high altitude or open woodland mosaics along lower glen floors. Areas of Natural Regeneration will also increase visual diversity where seed sources exist currently.

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B40 Conifer woodlands have been planned in areas which interlock into existing neighbouring plantations and are drawn up main glens linking into the existing track networks which favour the topography. Species choice for commercial conifer also transitions into native pine woodland and then upland birch along the Water of Aven. There is opportunity to improve species mixture of native woodland further to provide better unity and transition through the rolling landscape.

### Mitigations to protect cultural heritage setting

B41 No planting is proposed within 100m of the Cairn o' Mount Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).

B42 Long views between Cairn o' Mount and Clachnaben are not obstructed by planting.

B43 Recorded cultural heritage features within townships are provided a minimum 10m of open ground (unplanted) The long house is provided a minimum 8m buffer from planting, and the aircraft wrecks are provided 10m buffers. Individual features which make up a larger cultural heritage setting (such as the townships) are encompassed as a single buffered areas with interconnected open ground.

B44 Within the historic farmstead setting and around Charr Bothy, these features are highlighted in a mosaic of open ground and native planting to ensure the historic setting is reflected in the design.

### Mitigations to protect access and recreation

**B45** Organised 'Community Planting Days' will be planned once implementation begins, these will be advertised on glendyemoor.com, individuals and groups asked to be kept updated on progress will be informed directly and notices will also be placed on entryway noticeboards.

B46 Woodland planting will be set back from formal access routes to ensure they do not encroach on paths. Views at key locations have also been considered in the design and will be left open to ensure long views to landmarks are maintained.

## Fencing (C)

### Mitigations to protect water

C01 All constraints maps will display the SAC boundary where present

C02 Final fence line where this falls within 500m of the SAC will be agreed with NatureScot.

C03 Fences will reduce number of watergates to the greatest extent practicable.

### Mitigations to protect access and recreation

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- C04 Design of all new fences will comply with the Outdoor Access Code and non-vehicular gates will conform to advice from the British Horse Society 'Advice on Gate Installation on Routes Used with Horses'
- C05 Gates will be installed at every mapped access point suitable for walkers, cyclist and horse riders
- C06 Gates (minimum ATV suitable but tractor access where required) at every non-roaded access point for land management purposes including stalking tenant access and wildfire response to/from neighbouring land.
- C07 Additional access stiles in long sections of fence without gates or where they will aid in management site visits, also useful in winter snows
- C08 Additional signage will be placed on fence lines where desire lines may result in users encountering fences without sight of gates (example: 'gate 400m east →')
- C09 Fences are set back from the Cairn o'Mount road at variable distances, ranging from 14m set-back at the nearest to 70m set-back at the farthest. This is in line with the 'Joint Agency Agreement on Deer Fencing'. A second fenced enclosure on the east side of the public road has been removed from proposals due to risk of deer vehicle collisions within the corridor.

### Mitigations to protect landscape character & special qualities

- C10 Placement of fence line based on landscape assessment
  - C10.1 A single enclosure will be created around the perimeter of the site. This reduces the amount of fence significantly versus multiple smaller enclosures.
  - C10.2 Avoid long contours with the hillside
    - Rise and fall of fence along Cairn o'Mount Road
  - C10.3 Setting fences within hollows and below sight lines
    - Fence is lowered so that it is not seen from Cairn o'Mount SAM viewpoint looking toward Clachnaben.
  - C10.4 Avoid running along skyline.
    - This may not be possible along march lines with neighbours.
- C11 Should any machine movements occur within 100m of the Cairn o'Mount SAM, the site will be demarcated on the ground with tape/flagging and/or fencing.
- C12 Use of plastic shelters/guards will be avoided where feasible. Planting outside of fences, as shown on the Ground Preparation Map will be accomplished through the use of non-plastic shelters/guards should these be available. If plastic shelters/guards are used, a removal & recycling strategy will be implemented to ensure removal of all plastics within 10 years (within the FGS funding contract period). Where plastic shelters/guards are used these will be mapped and recorded for inclusion on the removal & recycling strategy. Annual budgeting will be in place to remove shelters/guards in a phased approach where trees are greater than 45cm in height and able to withstand low browsing levels.



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### Mitigations to protect wildlife & their habitats

#### C13 Operational timing restrictions during breeding seasons

Specific to each species and breeding site, safe working distances during breeding/lekking/nesting periods will be in line with the survey report

A c. [REDACTED] to ensure operations are planned to avoid potential disturbance during the breeding season Feb-Aug.

#### C14 Fence marking. Fences will be marked within 2km of mapped black grouse leks.

#### C15 Compensatory deer cull. Additional management culls to compensate for loss of foraging ground, total cull figures as agreed with NatureScot. A Deer Management Plan covers the property, target cull levels are agreed with NatureScot. Deer levels within the enclosure will be managed toward a target of 2.5 deer per square kilometre. Low level of deer browsing will continue within the fence which will aid in managing habitat for ground nesting birds and reducing wildfire risk (overaccumulation of fuels) while still allowing for natural regeneration.

### Roads or other ground works (D)

### Mitigations to protect water

#### D01 All constraints maps will display the SAC boundary where present

D02 New access tracks will avoid sensitive areas wherever possible, including areas of deep peat. All new tracks will be carefully planned to include pre-operational diffuse pollution strategies as well as diffuse pollution management mitigations during operations to ensure that organic compounds do not reach surface waters.

D03 Good biosecurity practices for all machinery and equipment entering the site must be carried out to reduce risk of spread. Industry standard practices for biosecurity will be referenced in all contract materials issued to operators.

### Mitigations to protect cultural heritage

**D04** Community Trench Dig along sections of stone dyke which will be removed for new tracks. This will entail an archaeologically excavated trench through each of the stone dykes where they are going to be removed by the new road, in order to record construction techniques and sequencing (if more than one phase of construction and repair). Findings will be published on glendyemoor.com and local interest groups will be encouraged to participate.

D05 Road locations avoid damaging cultural heritage features wherever feasible, and assessments of alternative routes are carried out to identify routes of lowest impact.

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<p>D06 Archaeological field survey and photography of the historic township prior to any new construction works in order to record the site prior to any changes. Extent of the survey will be agreed with Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Department.</p>
<p>Mitigations to protect landscape character &amp; special qualities</p> <p>D07 Important views from the public road are maintained through careful planting design, this includes the long view looking up the Water of Dye and views from Cairn o'Mount looking toward Clachnaben.</p> <p>D08 Planting on either side of the public road of individual trees to reduce visual impact of planting boundary, this may also be accomplished through natural regeneration</p> <p>D09 New tracks are shown on Maps and are designed in line with the principles found in the 'Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands' guidance produced by NatureScot.</p> <p>D10 Forest design will follow current guidelines and best practice principles of UKFS.</p> <p>D11 Glen Dye Moor has been described as vast, open, and wild. Transition from an open habitat to a wooded one will be a significant change however utilisation of predominantly native species, and interlocking commercial woodlands will maintain the existing spirit of place during the transition to woodland. Ensuring fencing is kept to the perimeter will also greatly reduce impact from new human artifacts</p>
<p>Mitigations to protect wildlife and their habitats</p> <p>D12 Fences set back from road edge to reduce risk of deer being directed onto the road, second enclosure to the east of the public road has been removed from the proposal to avoid creation of a corridor.</p> <p>D13 Operational timing restrictions during breeding seasons Specific to each species and breeding site, safe working distances during breeding/lekking/nesting periods will be in line with the survey report A c. [REDACTED] to ensure operations are planned to avoid potential disturbance during the breeding season Feb-Aug.</p>
<p>Mitigations to protect access and recreation</p> <p><b>D14</b> Car park at Spittal Bridge will be improved to ensure sustainable use for public parking, including drainage grading to mitigate flooding impacts Toilets will be added to the site, final design will be compliant with current planning requirements, indicative layout shown in <a href="#">Figure 2</a>.</p>

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### Path works including signage (E)

#### Mitigations to protect landscape character & special qualities

E01 No new paths will be constructed

E02 Way marker posts will be a combination of tall finger posts and smaller bollard posts to continue the appearance of a 'wild' western side of the moor.

#### Mitigations to protect wildlife & their habitats

E03 The information board at Spital Car Park will be used to provide information and guidance on wildlife.

E04 Fire warning signs will be erected at main entrances. Current risk level will be shown at the Spital Car Park.

E05 Operational timing restrictions during breeding seasons

Specific to each species and breeding site, safe working distances during breeding/lekking/nesting periods will be in line with the survey report

A c. [REDACTED] to ensure operations are planned to avoid potential disturbance during the breeding season Feb-Aug.

#### Mitigations to protect cultural heritage setting

E06 No paths planned for maintenance are located within or adjacent to archaeological features which may be damaged through maintenance activity. No specific mitigation measures are required.

#### Mitigations to protect access and recreation

**E07** Maps will be posted at main entrances identifying all gate locations and popular access routes, highlighting loops.

E08 Additional signage will be placed on fences where desire lines may result in users encountering fences without sight of gates ('gate 400m east →'). Locations will be based on known desire lines, winter site usage trends, and distances from access points.

E09 New signage will be erected at main entrances informing users of waymarked routes. Waymarking will also be refreshed along main routes and junctions. Signage will be installed along fence lines (high enough to be visible during winter) to direct cross-country users to infrastructure.

E10 The main entrance boards will be maintained and used to post updates about the site and advise users about safe access.

E11 Fires will be discouraged using informative signs and the fire risk/hazard will be posted at main entrance boards.

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- E12** Interpretive signs will be placed at key points such as the historic township location to provide information on the site to increase visitor awareness of special features. This will include signage about breeding bird sensitivity.
- E13 Waymarker posts will be placed to assist with navigation on popular routes
- E14 Challenging routes which do not have constructed paths will be purposefully left without waymarkers to ensure a sense of remoteness and wildness is maintained
- E15 During operations, formal paths will not be closed, and signs or other instructions will be put in place to ensure safe access is maintained. Temporary diversions may be implemented should track works be required
- E16** The main path to Clachnaben will be maintained. The Outdoor Access Trust (OATs) will be involved in path maintenance and the Northeast Mountain Trust will be encouraged to continue volunteering as path stewards to ensure long term sustainable community benefits are achieved within these organisations.

Other mitigations and/or community benefits not noted above: (F)

**F1 Charr Bothy** - Half of the bothy is private while the half is public. The public side of the building has been confirmed in a long-term lease with the Mountain Bothy Associate in 2022 who held their 2023 AGM at the bothy.

**F2 Rifle Range** - The existing rifle range at Glen Dye Moor will be maintained and available for groups where feasible.

**F3 Rural Economy** - Local resources will be utilised as much as possible both to improve sustainability of the project as well as contribute to the local rural economy. This will be delivered both through supply of labour and materials where local resources are available and through a tendering process.

**F4 Monitoring** - Social, Environmental and Socio-economic monitoring is planned to deliver long term 2040 vision for the landowner. Details of monitoring will be found in a separate monitoring framework document however key woodland creation specific monitoring will include annual Herbivore Impact Assessment (following standard HIA methodologies), annual establishment surveys ('beat-up' surveys noting survival of planted trees and natural regeneration density), recording of annual management culls, monitoring of areas designed as open ground such as around archaeological sites or within GWDTEs, and breeding bird surveys to determine how breeding territories change as habitats change.

Monitoring areas of designed open ground such as around archaeological sites or within GWDTEs, will include informal recording during site visits for annual stocking density assessments, and will include a 10-year reconciliation review where any unplanned seeding is found to be occurring will

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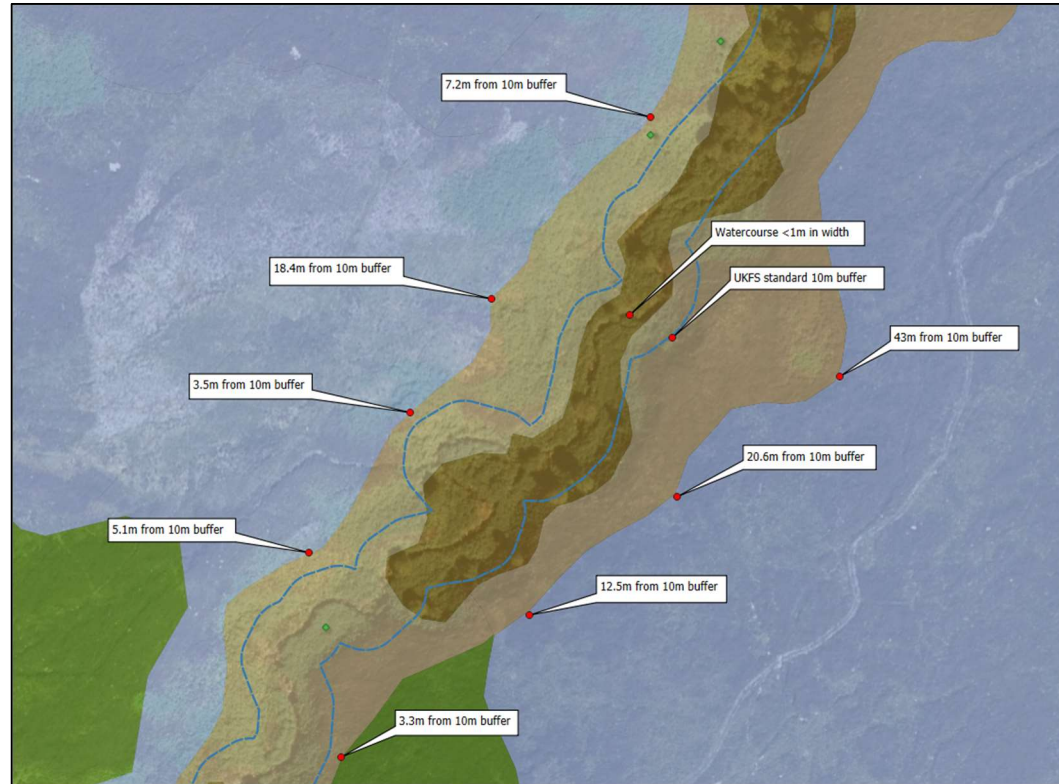
be scheduled for removal. Reconciliation will be carried out by the land manager and designed open ground will be cleared where this is found to be in breach of the FGS funding contract or where it is compromising the integrity of a known sensitivity.

**F5 Archaeological Interests-** The Archaeological Report is published on [glendyemoor.com](http://glendyemoor.com)

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Figure 1 below, showing riparian woodland creation around tributary to Burn of Greendams. Planting of native mixed broadleaves are shown as light brown, existing mature broadleaves are shown as dark brown, commercial spruce and pine mixture is shown as blue and commercial scots pine



mixture is shown as green.

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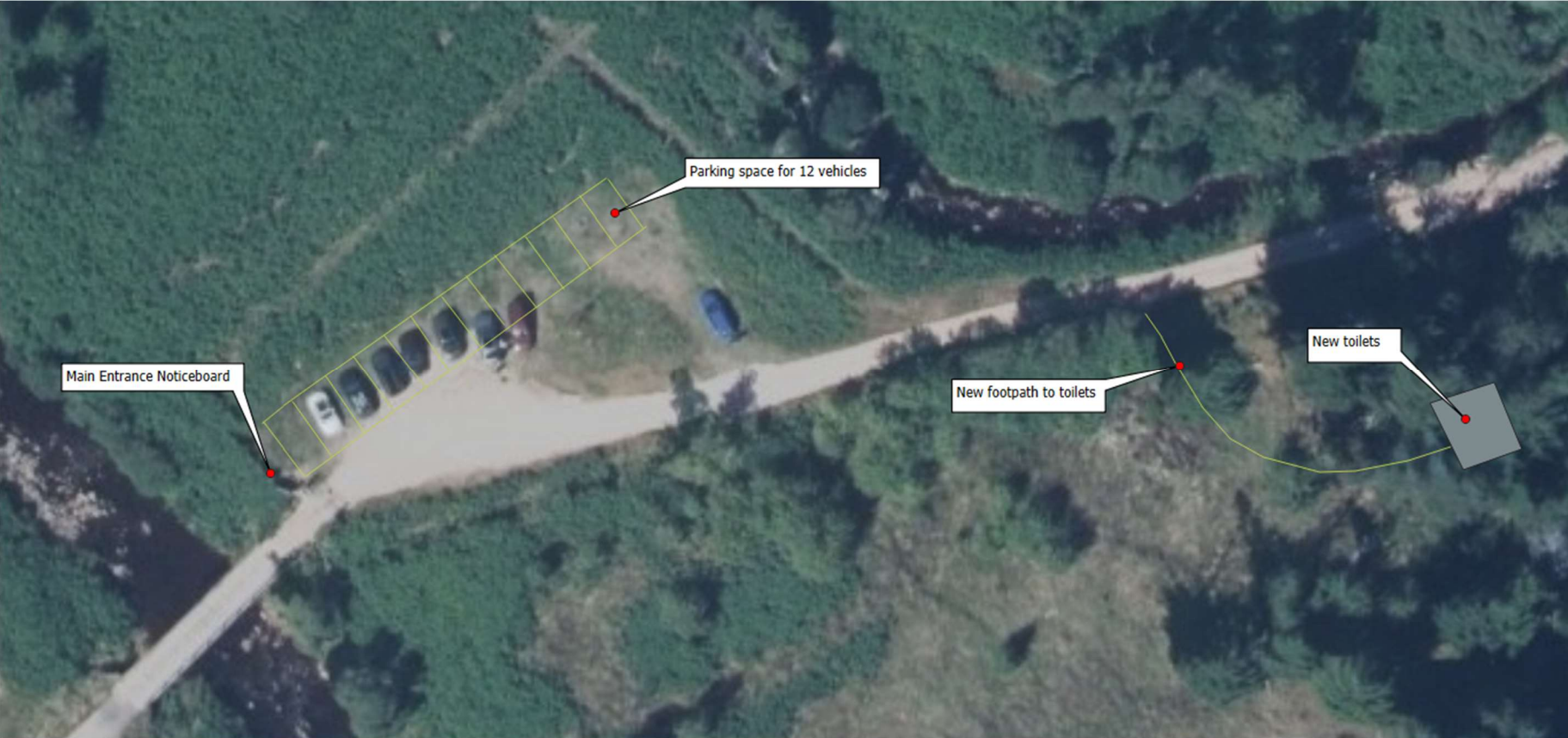


Figure 2. Above, showing indicative layout of Spittal carpark improvements.