

Banchory Woods Land Management Plan Summary

Banchory woods land management plan covers all the Forest Enterprise Scotland land holding in the river Dee valley around Banchory.

Blackhall Forest is 0.5 miles south west of Banchory while the other blocks are towards the north west. The forests are prominent features of the landscape and are part of an extensive forest network following the River Dee.

The forests comprise approx. 1400ha of predominately coniferous plantation with an intrusion of naturally regenerated birch, established mainly during the 1940s and 50s.

The river Dee runs through the plan area and is adjacent to the northern boundary of Blackhall. It is a Special Area of Conservation for Atlantic salmon, Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Otter. There are a number of small watercourses within the forest that are tributaries of the Dee.

Banchory woods are a significant amenity resource for the local community and an important recreational area for the wider community and user groups. There is a waymarked cycle trail, a network of footpaths and a car park at Scolty. The smaller blocks such as Corsee woods are also heavily used via the extensive network of informal trails, community managed paths and core paths.

There are is a total of 330ha of plantations on ancient woodland sites. The plan for Glencommon wood is to fully restore it to a mixture of upland oak wood, upland birch wood and native pine wood with biodiversity being the main objective. For Blackhall the objective is to enhance the woodland to improve it for biodiversity while still producing timber.

The **primary objective** is the management of the woodland to provide a recreational resource for Banchory and the surrounding area.

Additional **secondary objectives** have been identified as:

- The production of a quality crop of timber (across the whole plan area).
- The restoration of PAWS (Scolty and Glencommon wood).

In common with the management of all woodland in the National Forest Estate, the forest will be managed to meet the requirements of the UK forest standards. This will ensure that the plan area meets multiple land use objectives while utilising the intrinsic specific strengths of the location.

Total plan area	1399.8 ha
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Species	Area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Scots pine	316.4	22.6
Sitka spruce	266.9	19.1
Norway spruce	208.6	14.9
Larch	125.9	9.0
Douglas fir	100.3	7.2
Broadleaves	70.3	5.0
Birch	62.0	4.4
Conifers	17.6	1.3
Open	116.3	8.3
Felled	115.5	8.3

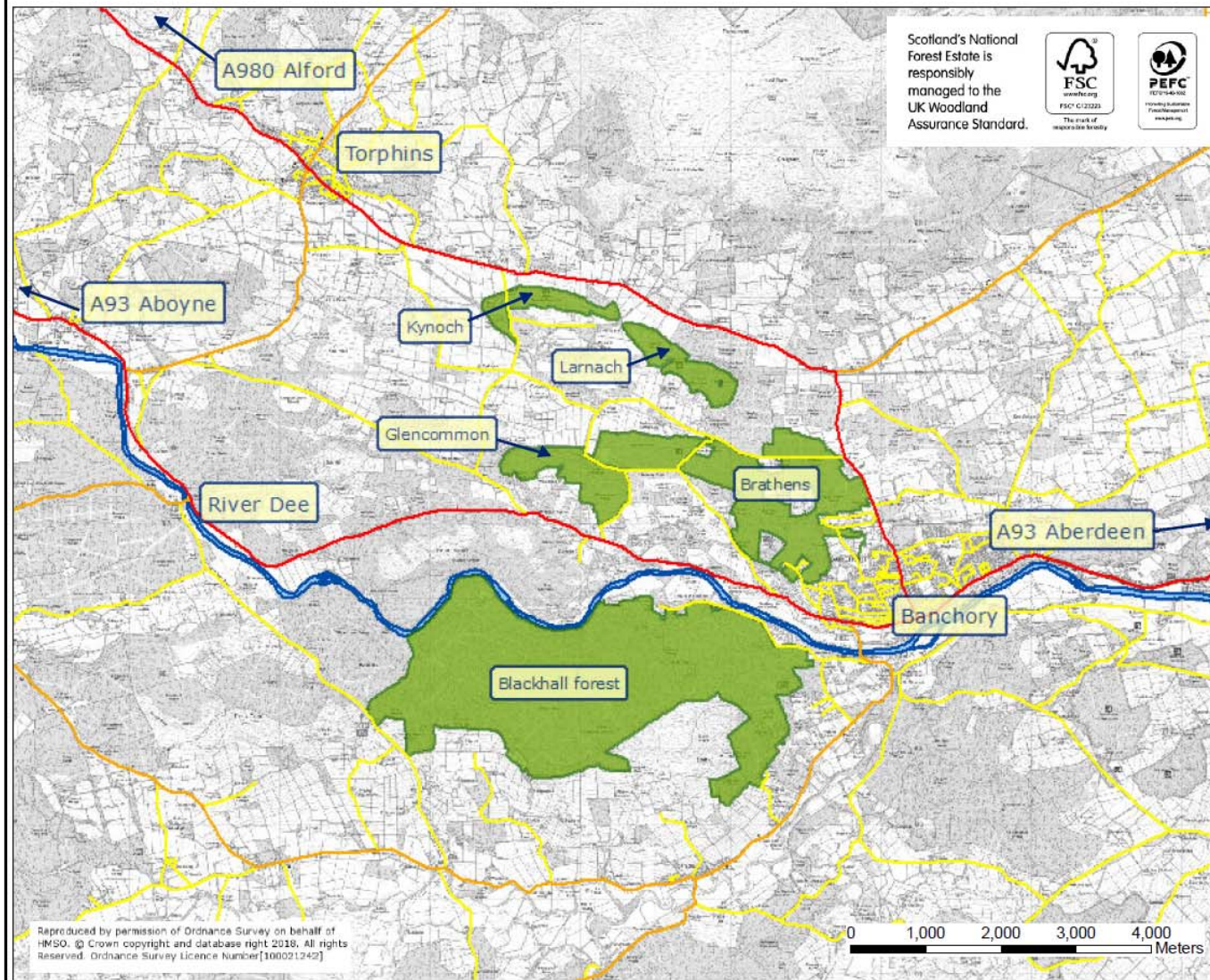
Critical Success Factors

- Maintain the recreational infrastructure within the plan area to meet the objective of providing a quality facility for Banchory and the surrounding area.
- Undertake the planned thinning and felling programme in order to increase the quality of the timber within the plan area and to meet the production targets.
- Undertake the thinning planned for the LISS areas in order to manage the light levels to allow the development of the appropriate ground vegetation and natural regeneration.
- Undertake respacing of natural regeneration where required to allow the development of the crop for saw log production.
- Continue with the maintenance of the forest road network to allow forest operations to be successfully completed.
- Control deer populations to allow natural regeneration within LISS areas.
- Undertake all operations according to the UKFS forest and water guidelines to protect the river Dee SAC from diffuse pollution.
- Undertake the felling, restocking and natural regeneration management within the PAWS areas to continue the process of restoring them to a more natural species composition.

Consultation and Further Information

During the development of this plan we have consulted publically including local community representatives and stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area.

For further information on the plan please contact Mark Reeve, Planning Forester, Forestry Commission Scotland on 07990802079 or mark.reeve@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Moray & Aberdeenshire Forest District Banchory woods

Map 1 - Location

O.S. Grid Ref NO 672967

Date 24 June 2015

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3

-  Banchory woods
-  A road
-  B road
-  Minor road
-  River Dee

