

Appendix 3 : Felling of coupes surrounding River Teith Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Stronvar Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Loch Lubnaig Marshes SSSI

Management coupe affected: 80006, 80026, 80027, 81052, 81051, 81054, 81706, 82708, 82054.

Background

Forestry & Land Scotland are preparing a revised management plan for our Strathgryre forests. The purpose of this revised plan is to target removal of Larch spp. from the forest in light of the rapid spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*, a tree disease that kills Larch. This has involved the design of a series of clearfelling and thinning coupes that involve the removal of other non-Larch conifers. The proposed felling coupes can be seen illustrated in the accompanying map, M09 Management map

Operational method:

In advance of operations, FLS will liaise with NatureScot about entering the SSSI/SAC areas and agree detailed, site-specific protection methods.

In outline, protection methods for the felling operations can be expected to be as per our normal operational methods and include:

- Consult with NatureScot about entering SSSI areas and agree protection methods (licences to enter this SSSI have been applied for previously)
- Avoid winter working wherever possible
- Monitoring of site during heavy rainfall and stop site where appropriate (this includes haulage on forest roads that effect SAC area)
- Silt catch points to be installed prior to operations commencing. This will include silt netting and sump traps that lead into already existing drainage networks.
- All vehicles accessing and on site will have full pollution control kits
- Pollution control plans to be issued to all operators on site before work starts
- All operations will follow Forest and Water guidelines.
- Consultation with SEPA wherever appropriate
- Crossing of water courses that lead into SAC will be avoided but when this is not possible robust log bridges will be constructed with regular monitoring taking place over their condition
- No machine access within 10m of all water course to prevent ground damage