

Biodiversity enhancement

We are proposing the implementation of a Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan which will offer opportunities for interrelated environmental enhancements at the site with respect to peat, biodiversity and forestry enhancement plans. This will be prepared and submitted with the section 36 application, and an outline of the initial proposals is included below. Further proposals are also under consideration, details of which will be in the EIA Report.

Peatland Restoration

We have identified areas on the site that will be suitable for peatland restoration. This work will aim to improve the quality of peatland habitats on site, including reducing areas of exposed peat which release carbon if left untreated. These works will include:

- Reprofiling hags/drains/channels
- Installing features (dams) to retain water on site
- Spreading of a predominantly heather mulch (locally sourced) on areas of bare and / or reprofiled peat to help kick-start vegetation growth

Waders

It is recognised that the area around Easter Strathnoon currently supports a number of wader species including Lapwing and Oystercatcher. Through continued support of current land management practices (including a regular programme of predator control), wader numbers will continue to rise.

Kinveachy Forest Enhancement

Within the woodland areas, the aim is to extend the coverage of the native Caledonian woodland (designated feature of Kinveachy Forest) through a programme of re-wilding / natural regeneration. Land management practices elsewhere on the Estate that have seen an increase in native woodland coverage will be adopted on land identified for re-wilding / natural regeneration.

Restoration would be focused on localities away from major erosion channels / long-standing burns on the lower slopes overlooking the River Dulnain.

Areas identified for woodland restoration will avoid peatland habitats and will focus on dry heathland. No planting will be undertaken within the designated boundary of Kinveachy Forest SPA / SAC / SSSI.

Watercourses

The fish habitat surveys identified suitable habitat for fish in the watercourses that drain into the Rivers Findhorn and Dulnain. It is proposed to undertake spot cutting of the predominantly heathland vegetation using robotic cutters to promote the growth of native tree species from the inherent seedbank. Such a technique has been used on the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project and elsewhere on Seafield Estate.



Clune Wind Farm - updated proposal

www.clune-windfarm.co.uk

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