



FLS Angus Glens Herbivore Management

We are planning to undertake large scale native woodland creation and peatland restoration across much of the 3,500 hectares at FLS Glen Prosen. The impact of herbivores needs to be reduced substantially for this to happen. The most recent evaluation of deer culls suggests that the deer density is approximately 12-13/km² across the open range, whereas for natural regeneration of trees to occur this needs to be 0-2/km². This transitory population is highly mobile, and whilst there is no longer a resident group of deer in Glen Prosen or Glen Doll, deer moving in and out of the glens could easily cause damage and inhibit the establishment of new woodland. A large population of rabbits are present in the lower reaches of the glens too, which could also have a significant impact on newly planted trees, as could other small mammals such as mountain hares and voles.

At a Scottish Government and FLS policy level deer culling is the preferred solution and fencing to a degree a measure of last resort. And whilst FLS will continue reduction culls to contribute to achieving the target for the area, fencing will need to be employed, at least in the short/medium term to achieve our aims.



Upland deer fencing with rabbit netting and diagonal markers for birds

We have developed a draft proposal for fencing in Glen Prosen that combines perimeter deer fences with internal compartment fencing, alongside rabbit netting and some stock fences with electric offset wires, to provide protection for woodland establishment and open habitat restoration, whilst keeping the amount of fencing on site to a minimum and utilising existing fence line where possible – see ‘Map 5. Glen Prosen Fencing Proposals.’



Example of self-closing pedestrian gate

This will include access for vehicles, pedestrians and other non-motorised users to still get through the site and use existing tracks and trails. We will also be implementing mitigations to help prevent bird strikes, by marking fences with wooden slats where needed.

A phased approach to erecting fenced enclosures will mean that we can gradually enclose more of the site, whilst sweeping compartments for herbivores before tree planting begins. It also means that we will be able to adapt our approach to any changes on site or the wider landscape if we need to. As time goes on, we will keep reviewing the need for fencing and remove any fences (especially those internal to the site) that are no longer required once woodland has been established.

Deer culling and rabbit control will continue alongside fencing to keep deer off site and protect the fragile montane habitats at the head of Glen Prosen. In Glen Doll FLS will carry on with the present deer culling both in the plantation forest and at Corrie Fee NNR. We envisage that as the windblow harvesting progresses in Glen Doll, large compartment fences will also be needed to protect the new restock of native woodland that follows.



Existing deer fence around the forest plantation in Glen Prosen