

2.2 Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Wind throw or environmental response	Adjustment to road lines
Scottish Forestry's approval not normally required. <i>(record & notify SF)</i>	<10% of coupe	Up to 5 planting seasons after felling <i>(allowing fallow periods for Hylobius)</i> .	Change within native species group <i>(e.g. Scots pinewood to upland birchwood)</i> ; non-native conifers <i>(e.g Sitka spruce to Douglas fir)</i> and non-native to native species <i>(allowing for changes to facilitate Ancient Woodland policy)</i> .		Departures of < 60m from the centre of planned roadline.
Approval by exchange of letters and map.	10-15% of coupe	5 years +	Change of coupe objective likely to be consistent with current policy (e.g. from productive to open, open to native species).	< 5 ha	Departures of > 60m from the centre of planned roadline.
Approval by formal plan amendment.	>15% of coupe		Major change of objective likely to be contrary to policy e.g. native to non-native species, open ground to non-native.	> 5 ha	As above, depending on sensitivity.

A 5-year fallow period between felling and restocking is adopted across the LMP area to allow a natural reduction in *Hylobius* populations. Population monitoring will be carried out prior to restocking in order to ascertain population levels as a means to reducing the use of insecticide applications during subsequent restocking and establishment phase. The rise in local *Hylobius* populations in recent years, following large scale DNB-related harvesting, is a significant concern. Given the drive to minimise the use of pesticides on the NFL, delaying restocking operations might be the only realistic option to establish the next generation of trees. Where and when this happens outside tolerance limits agreed with SF, an approval from SF will be sought to deal with adjacency issues through delayed restocking.

The preferred means of dealing with any adjacency issues will be through delayed felling, i.e. a coupe will not be felled until all surrounding crops are at least 2 metres tall. Forest within the West Sutherland LMP area suffered from DNB infection and wind damage and as a result extensive areas are proposed to be felled within next 10 years. As delaying felling of those areas isn't an acceptable option (from the economic and landscape point of view), delaying of restocking is the only opportunity left to create any age diversity (although on a very limited scale).

2.3 Summary of Departures from UKFS

The West Sutherland LMP seeks to comply with all requirements of the United Kingdom Forestry Standard to deliver the aims and objectives of the various strategies and policies outlined in **Appendix 3 – Key Policies and Publications**. In designing these proposals we do not believe that there are any departures from UKFS requirements.

2.4 Summary of Additional Regulations

Where management proposals fall out with the scope of Scottish Forestry approvals the correct procedures will be followed to gain the relevant permissions. For this LMP that will be limited to the Prior Notification process for forestry specific roads, tracks and associated borrow pits and full planning applications to Highland Council for any other developments not related specifically to forestry operations and management in that context.