
Gallowshill

Felling Permission Application Scoping Exercise

Site	Area
Gallowshill	56.16 ha

CONSULTATION ASSESSMENT

Access

No known third party rights of access exist for neighbouring land owners. Gallowshill roads, tracks and rides within the forest are frequently used by the public. This informal usage is in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Warning notices will be displayed during any periods of forest operations. All efforts will be made to maintain reasonable access throughout the operations and repair any significant damage caused following extraction.

Archaeology and Cultural

There are no known recorded scheduled archaeological sites located within the forest. Pre-felling surveys will be conducted to ensure the exact locations are marked on the ground. Appropriate machine buffers will be in place during all operations. Any features discovered during restructuring will be recorded and protected with open ground buffers.

Biodiversity

Some rare or protected species are potentially present. Consultations will be made with the relevant bodies and authorities and site surveys will be undertaken prior to any operation which may cause disturbance to species and habitats (e.g. badgers or nesting birds). If any constraint is found, it will be marked out and appropriate mitigation measures implemented. Efforts will also be made to create new habitats, for example brash stacked in eco piles for invertebrate habitat.

There are a number of woodland drains within the property which may contain riparian habitats; any works in the vicinity of forest drains will conform to the UK Forestry Standard, Forests and Water guidelines 2017 and will follow consultations with SEPA.

Deer Management

Roe deer will be the main resident species in the woodland. Deer management will be conducted as per the approved UKWAS deer management plan.

Designations

There are no designations within or immediately adjacent to the woodland boundary.

Fencing

Gallowshill Forest is contained within a stock fence along the northern, southern and eastern boundaries, with an old dyke forming a boundary along the public road to the west. Fence repairs/upgrades have been conducted following the last phase of felling. Boundary fences adjacent to proposed felling areas will be inspected prior to operations and a record of condition produced. Any necessary repairs will be carried out in due course in consultation with neighbouring landowners.

Forest Roads

Minor repairs may be necessary prior to timber haulage to ensure a level running surface. Post haulage maintenance will be conducted to ensure all major debris is cleared and all roadside drains are functioning correctly.

Landscape

Gallowshill Forest is somewhat prominent within the local area and sits amongst a number of similar sized (under 100 ha) forestry blocks to the west and east. Limited views are seen from the B993.

The area is characterised by rolling landforms of low gently rounded hills and broad valleys intermixed with small scale relief; land use consists predominantly of mixed farmland and small-scale forestry.

The proposed thinning will not have a significant visual impact on the area due to the minor change in canopy structure in the thinning areas and no change to the canopy line in the windblow clearance areas.

Neighbours

The woodland has borders with a number of local farms; all immediate landowners/neighbours and stakeholders will be kept informed of activities and efforts will be made to minimise any disturbance to them.

Timber Harvesting/Restructuring

Phase 2 thinning will be conducted in line with the approved management plan, along with clearance of the remaining mature Scots pine windblow in sub-compartments 2j1, 2j1, 2j3, 2j4, 2l1 and 2l2.

Thinning will improve the final quality of the commercial conifer areas and improve ground conditions by allowing more light through the canopy. This will facilitate a higher level of ground vegetation to develop and increase the potential for habitat in these areas.

The remainder of the mature Scots pine which was blown over during Storm Arwen and subsequent storm events will be cleared to ensure no wastage of marketable timber.

Mature standing Scots pine in these areas will be retained as a seed source and underplanted with Scots pine in low density with the aim long term conversion to continuous cover forestry.

Restructuring will be carried out in line with Scottish Forestry guidelines.

Timber Haulage

The forest is accessed off the minor road U119C leading onto the C116C Blairdaff to Inverurie and is an agreed timber transport route. Haulage will be timed wherever possible to avoid peak local user times.

Refer to timber transport map for details.

Utilities

There are no utilities within the forest boundary.

Private Water Supplies

No known private water supplies are present within the forest boundary. Consultation with neighbouring landowners and Aberdeenshire council will be sought to ensure no infrastructure exists.

Watercourses

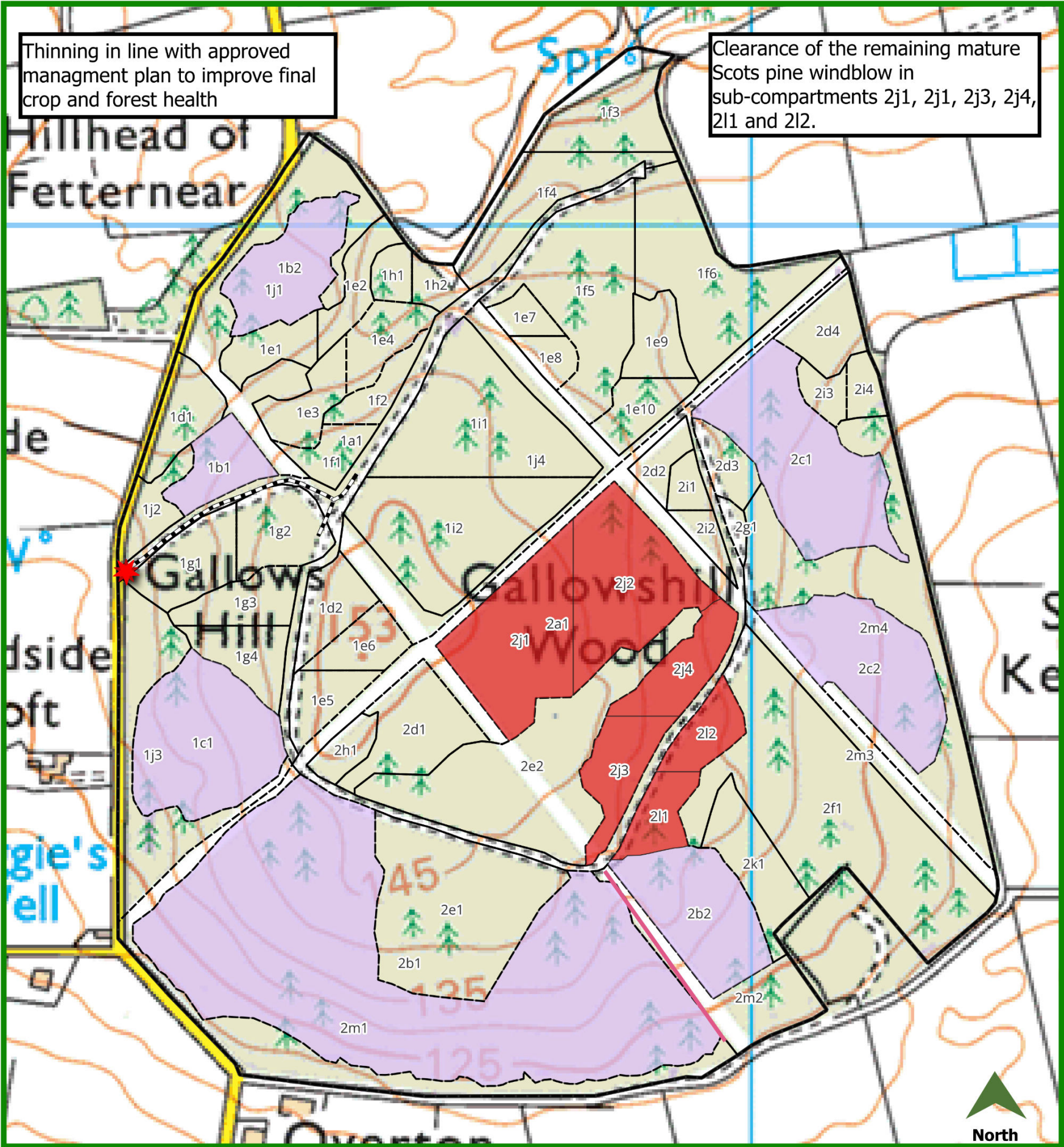
There are no watercourses present within the forest boundary. All operations will be conducted in accordance with Forestry and Water Scotland and SEPA Guidelines.

Any drains which may feed into watercourses outwith the forest boundary will have appropriate siltation mitigation measures installed.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following have been identified as stakeholders and are included in this scoping exercise. Where email addresses are available the documents will be sent via this method only. Scoping documents will be hand delivered to the several private dwellings and landowners who border the site.

Type	Name, Title, Organisation
Local Residents	Occupiers
Marching neighbours	Occupiers
Timber haulage	Claire Glaister Rural Development Initiatives Ltd. Grampian timber transport forum.
Badgers	Andy Riches Scottish Badgers
Birds	Cunningham, Karen RSPB
Biodiversity & Designations	Scottish Natural Heritage
Watercourses	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency Aberdeen
Aberdeenshire Council TEC services	Philip Leiper Roads Manager Formartine & Garioch
Environment planner	Emma Williams Aberdeenshire Council
Regional Archaeologist	Caroline Palmer Archaeological Assistant, SMR Assistant:
Community Councils	Kemnay Community Council



1:3,500 METRES @ A3



Bogallan,
North Kessock
Inverness
IV1 3XE

Date: (07/24)

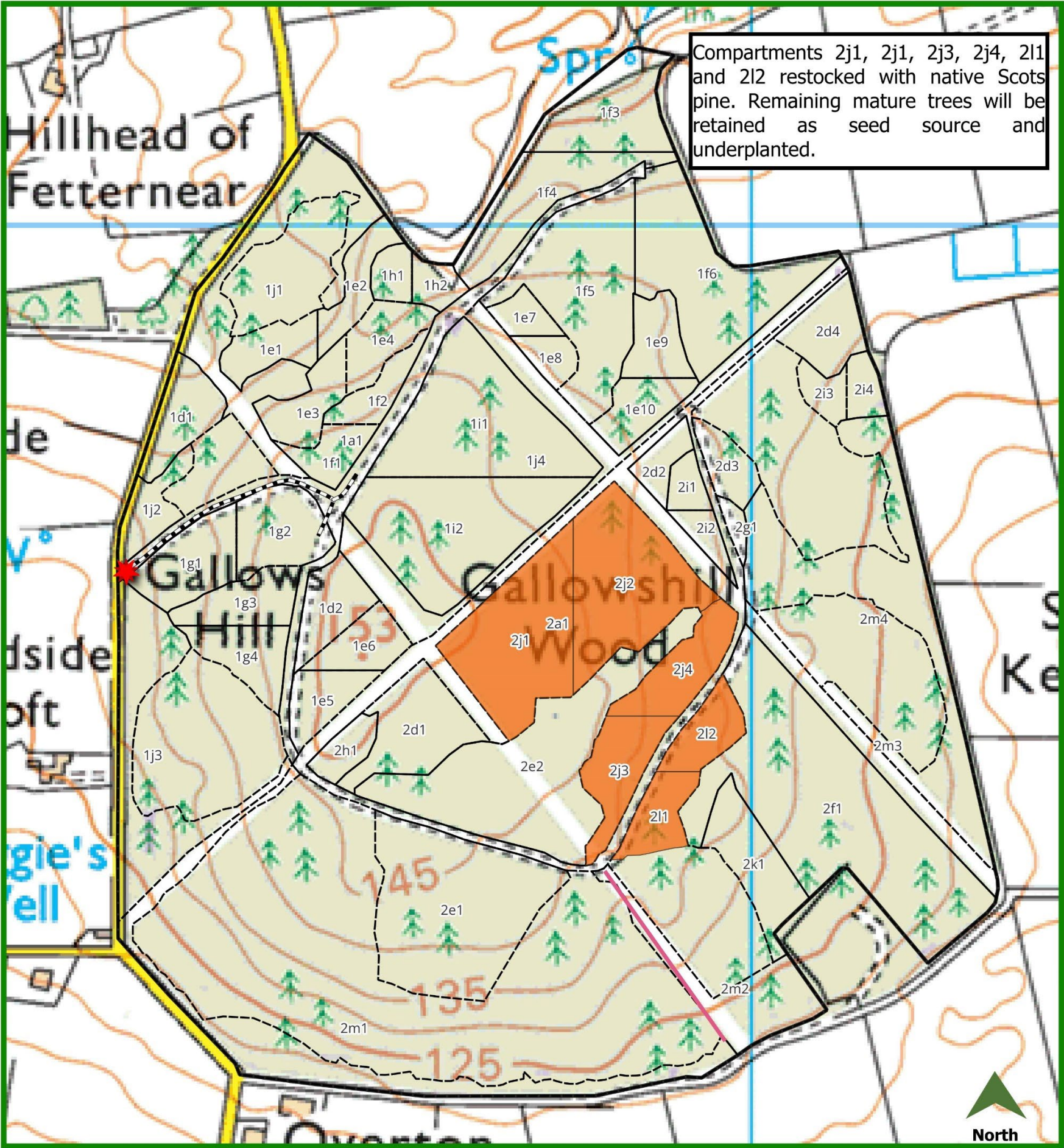
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Gallowshill

PH2 thinning + Balance of
Windblow Clearance

- Gallowshill boundary
- Forest Road
- CMPT Boundary
- Windblow Clearance (4.54 ha)
- Thinning (14.68 ha)

Access Point
NGR: NJ71421868



1:3,500 METRES @ A3



Bogallan,
North Kessock
Inverness
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Date: (07/24)

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Gallowshill Restocking

- Gallowshill boundary
- Forest Road
- Scots Pine (4.54ha)
- CMPT Boundary
- Access Point
NGR: NJ71421868