

## Wildfire Risk Assessment

## New Kelso Forest

**Location:** New Kelso Forest, Strath Carron NG 944 442.

**Description of Forest:** An upland commercial conifer forests extending to 265.79ha, with harvesting and restocking of commercial conifer crops predominantly Sitka Spruce planned to start 2024 and continue for the next 20 years.

**Public Access** - There is several access points (ref to fire plan map). The forest has constant foot fall from the public mainly in the south forest east core path. The existing south forest has a core path network and timber extraction roads. There are currently no intentions to expand access for public use or to create further interconnections with road or path networks within neighbouring properties.

**Surrounding Areas & Environment:** The forests are standalone commercial forests surrounded upland heathland used for sheep grazing. (See attached - Fire Risk Map).

What are the fire hazards?	Who/what might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to manage risk?	Initial Risk rating = Likelihood x Severity			What else do you need to do?	Revised Risk rating = Likelihood x Severity		
			L	S	R		L	S	R
Spread of wildfire from neighbouring open ground/farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Public</li> <li>• Fire Fighters</li> <li>• Forest Workers</li> <li>• Forest Assets</li> <li>• Neighbouring Properties</li> <li>• Utilities</li> <li>• Environmental impacts to habitats, species, and designated areas</li> </ul>	Forest Management and Design Plans Management of woodland design, open space, physical breaks (water course/roads)	2	4	8 M	Long term planning and resilience planning in woodland restructuring and design (E.g. thinning of continuous cover crops, management of ride systems, compartmentalisation and access network, identification of high-risk areas and vegetation) Woodland buffer zone and edge management (Space, species selection, fire breaks etc)	2	3	6 M
Spread of fire from adjoining forest properties		Management coordination with neighbouring forest managers	2	4	8 M	Coordination and stakeholder consultation on woodland design and restructuring within and in neighbouring forests to minimise fire risk	2	3	6 M
Public Access - Fire ignition from members of the public using, passing through or driving by the forest (Public Road)		Fire warning signage and promotion of the outdoor access code, monitoring, and control of public access	2	4	8 M	Continued monitoring of public access and identification on developing trends or risks in levels of public use within the forest	1	4	4 L
Forest Operations - Forest machinery and forest workers		Operational planning, emergency plans and arrangements, firefighting	1	4	4 L	Robust planning and monitoring of all forest operations. Sharing of Wildfire Danger	1	3	3 L

		equipment on all heavy plant and machinery. Machinery maintenance arrangements and operator competence				Assessments and alerts during periods of high fire risk.			
Spread of fire within forest		Forest Management and Design Plans Management of woodland design, open space, physical breaks (water course/roads) Internal buffer zone and woodland/compartiment edge management (Space, species selection, fire breaks etc)	2	4	8 M	Management of tree health, deadwood, and wind blow Consideration of silvicultural methods and impacts on fuel loading during different phases of forest management. Regular review of long-term resilience planning in woodland restructuring and design (E.g. thinning of continuous cover crops, management of ride systems, compartmentalisation and access network, identification of high-risk areas and vegetation)	2	3	6 M
Overhead power lines on site None present currently		Maintenance of OHL by utilities/network operators, safety clearances from trees and vegetation maintained	0	0	0	Woodland maintenance and design of utility corridors with the forest	0	0	0
Arson, anti-social behaviour and rural crime		Fire warning signage and promotion of the outdoor access code, monitoring of public access and management of vehicular access through the forest	2	4	12 H	Continued monitoring of public access and identification on developing trends or risks in levels of public use within the forest – Liaison with Police, fire services, SPARC to share knowledge and incidents of illegal and anti-social activity	2	4	8 M

#### Appendix 1 - Risk Scoring Methodology

**References:** *The UK Forestry Standard (& Guidelines), UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), Fire Fighting - Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA) Safety Guide 803, GN-FFR-01 - Forest Fires Response, Design Techniques for Forest Management Planning, Forest and Moorland Fire Suppression, The Muirburn Code, Scottish Outdoor Access Code*

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