

# FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND

## WORK PLAN GUIDANCE

### 7.5 Environment Considerations

**Section A5** provides details of all Environment Site Considerations and input to this section is led by the Environment Team. Advice may be required from specialist advisors particularly with regard to consents, species licences and appropriate assessments. Particular reference should be made to the **UK Forestry Standard** and the associated suite of guidance notes.

Due to natural migration and movement, information on many species can only be guaranteed for a short timeframe. If the operation is not completed within 12 months of this advice, the environment team will need to revisit this section of the Work Plan. An initial desk based survey for environmental features should be completed on initiation of the Work Plan. Where necessary, this would be followed up by a field survey one year in advance of the work commencing, with the aim of a further field survey two to three weeks prior to operations commencing.

<b>A5. Environment Site Considerations- Environment Team to complete</b>			
<b>Environment Feature</b>	<b>Issues, Constraints and Opportunities Noted</b>	<b>Impacts and Mitigation Measures Agreed Include Timing Constraints</b>	<b>Input by &amp; Date</b>
Statutory Designations.	List <b>all</b> designated sites (on national forest estate and adjacent) within 500m of the site specifying (i) whether the operation will affect it and (ii) whether an appropriate assessment or other form of consent will be required in advance of the proposal. Consideration should also be afforded to broader impacts such as visual setting, altered drainage conditions and adjacent designations.		
Historic Environment	Following the <b>UKFS Forests and the historic environment</b> guidelines and using the <b>Forester GIS Heritage Module</b> , consider whether or not an additional archaeological survey is required to fully inform the proposal. Identify any designated historic assets (such as scheduled monuments) or significant heritage features that may be affected by the proposal and if necessary ensure that they are marked out in advance. Consider any further protection measures, additional mitigation actions or supplementary management opportunities that are required in advance of the proposal.		
Animal Species	Following the <b>UKFS Forests and biodiversity</b> guidelines and using the <b>Forester GIS Conservation Module</b> , consider whether or not any additional ecological surveys are required in order to inform the proposal. Identify areas or issues of specific interest, distinguishing between designated habitats, corporate priorities or local Species Action Plan / Habitat		

	Action Plan opportunities. If species licences are required, the requirement should be identified at this stage to allow application for licences prior to work commencing.
Plant Species	Following the <b>UKFS Forests and biodiversity</b> guidelines and using the <b>Botanical Society of the British Isles</b> GIS dataset and the <b>Forester GIS Conservation Module</b> , consider whether or not any additional ecological surveys are required in order to inform the proposal. Identify areas or issues of specific interest, distinguishing between populations of plants, which are notified features on designated sites; legally protected species (Wildlife and Countryside Act, Schedule 8); Red Data Book; UKBAP priority species; Scottish Biodiversity List Species or Local Biodiversity Action Plan species.
Open Habitat	Following the <b>UKFS Forests and biodiversity</b> guidelines and using the <b>Habitat Spatial Data Model</b> GIS data, consider any significant open habitats occurring in, adjacent to, or fed by water draining from the work plan area that could be affected. Identify areas or issues of specific interest, distinguishing between designated habitats, UKBAP Priority habitats or local Habitat Action Plan opportunities.
Native Woodlands & PAWS	Following the <b>UKFS Forests and biodiversity</b> guidelines and associated FES guidance notes, consider whether an ecological survey is required in order to identify the ecological characteristics of an area of native woodland or PAWS and any significant issues that may require protection mitigation or specific management. Ensure that proposals for working in any native woodland or PAWS are complementary to the known biodiversity values and the traditional management of the stand – and that any constraints or opportunities for management requirements are highlighted.
Deadwood & Retentions	Following the <b>UKFS Forests and biodiversity</b> guidelines and associated FES guidance notes, identify any specific requirements.
Water Protection	Following the <b>UKFS Forests and water</b> guidelines and associated FES guidance notes, identify any specific requirements. All forestry operations must meet relevant Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations (CAR) General Binding Rules and any divergence must be licensed or registered with SEPA. If a licence will be required in relation to the CAR, this requirement should be identified at this stage to allow application(s) prior to work commencing.

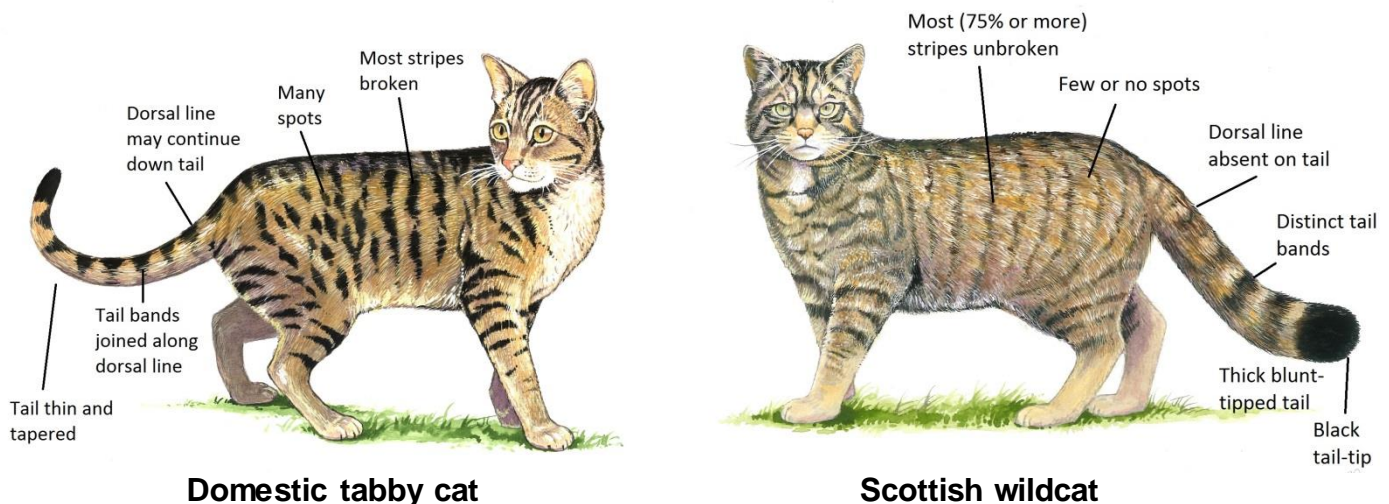
# Watch for Wildcats

Scottish Wildcats are known to inhabit this area of forest. They are a critically endangered native mammal with legal protection. We need your help to make sure they are not at risk from forest operations.

## Seen a Wildcat or a feral cat? Please tell us!

Finding and reporting wildcats or signs of wildcats is vital to protect the few animals that remain, and will not necessarily stop all works.

### Wildcat identification



If a cat has all the following, assume it is a wildcat:

- Tabby markings
- No white feet
- Thick, ringed, blunt tail
- No stripe down tail

### Did you know?

- Scottish wildcats are a different species from domestic cats, and differ in their genetics, appearance, and behaviour.
- Wildcats are most active between dusk and dawn, and are mostly solitary. They often hunt around the edges of forest and scrub and frequent travel along forestry tracks.
- Wildcats are under threat from hybridisation (cross-breeding) with domestic cats and cat diseases, as well as persecution, habitat loss and a lack of prey animals.



**More info:** [www.scottishwildcataction.org](http://www.scottishwildcataction.org)

**Any cat sightings ASAP please contact  
Jackie Cumberbirch ( FLS) 07799658209**

# Are you Wildcat Den Aware?

Wildcats breed in dens between March to June. They will leave kittens alone in these dens whilst the adult comes and goes, with very few external clues:

All wildcat dens are legally protected all year.

**If you see a cat active around one of these den sites,  
do not damage it or approach- report it.**



Wildcat dens can be: rock cairns, fieldstone piles, stone dykes or walls, brush piles, wind-throw areas, tree root hollows, abandoned buildings, pipes or drains.

**Thank you for your help in protecting  
Scottish Wildcats.**