

By email to: Daniel.Amos@grosvenor.com

Daniel Amos
Lead Forester
Grosvenor

17th July 2025

Dear Mr Amos,

Re: Reay Forest Estate, Proposed Woodland Creation Scheme – Visual Impact Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this scheme. I viewed your plans with great interest.

Mountaineering Scotland supports the re-establishment of native woodland in areas where it would naturally occur. We favour natural regeneration as it helps to establish a species mix that best fits the site and creates high quality habitat that integrates seamlessly with the landscape, whilst supporting increased biodiversity. However, we do support planting in areas where key native species are no longer present and need to be reintroduced to help create an optimum species mix.

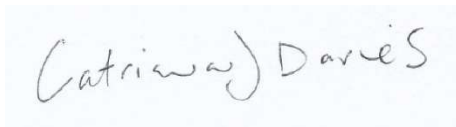
Mountaineering Scotland believes land management infrastructure, including fences and tracks, should be kept to a minimum in mountain landscapes. However, I accept that the current level of grazing pressure and the degraded nature of the remaining native woodland at Reay means that deer fencing is needed to allow natural regeneration. I am pleased to note that the fences have been carefully sited to minimise their visibility and impact on the landscape and that there are very few, if any points where a fence will be clearly visible against the skyline.

Thank you for considering walkers and climbers and providing multiple access points in the fences. The locations of the proposed access points will allow access to all the likely routes to and from summits and other popular walks in the area, although some walkers will choose to follow their own routes. Self-closing gates are ideal. Please note gates should have a minimum clear width of 1500mm to accommodate all non-motorised users, including walkers with heavily laden packs, in line with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. I note signage will be placed on the fence to direct walkers to the nearest gate. This is welcomed and will be especially useful to walkers and climbers descending by atypical routes.

Deer grids can be difficult to cross safely on foot, especially with a heavy pack or in wet or icy weather. I would encourage you to provide self-closing side gates alongside all the deer grids to facilitate access.

I hope these comments are useful.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink on a light blue rectangular background. The signature reads "Catriona Davies" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Catriona Davies
Access & Environment Officer
Mountaineering Scotland

Email: access@mountaineering.scot

