

By email to: alister@zora.eco; foreign@zora.eco

9th April 2026

Dear Alister,

Re: Foreign Wood Land Management Plans

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this scheme. Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with 16,000 members and is the only recognised representative body for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who enjoy Scotland's mountains. We represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering, and provide information and training to mountaineers on safe and responsible enjoyment of our mountain environment.

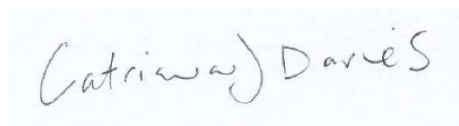
Mountaineering Scotland supports the re-establishment of native woodland in areas where it would naturally occur. We favour natural regeneration as it helps to establish a species mix that best fits the site and creates high quality habitat that integrates seamlessly with the landscape, whilst supporting 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. Where fences are needed, they should be carefully sited to minimise their visual impact, and to avoid fencelines standing out against the skyline.

Extensive fencing can also be a barrier outdoor access. Considering routes that recreational users are likely to take and providing crossing points helps to ensure landowners are meeting their obligations under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 20023 as well as preventing damage to fences caused by people climbing over them.

I hope these comments are useful.

Kind regards,



Catriona Davies
Access & Environment Officer
Mountaineering Scotland

Email: access@mountaineering.scot