PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL FOREST PLAN

2015 – 2035

Friendly Forestry Ltd

Contents

1 Introduction

A Forest Plan is a management tool that sets out the operational objectives for managing the woodland that will create the desired outcome for the owners, users and stakeholders of the forest. The desired outcome is determined by the scoping process which has in turn been informed by standard forest management principles and site specific conditions.

Perth and Kinross Council recognise how important woodlands, urban woodlands and green spaces are to residents of Perth and Kinross, people that work in the area and visitors and tourists. Bringing together all the woodlands owned by the Council, along with urban green spaces, in one Forest Plan has a number of benefits:

1) Not all woodlands can be all things to all people. For example, well-used small urban parkland will not support the levels of biodiversity that larger native woodlands will, however, it will be used more by the public. If taken on its own, the management of the urban woodland would not be achieving, or striving to achieve, the levels of biodiversity that large proportions of the public want. Community development is a key aim of the council, however, remote native woodlands will not offer the opportunities for bringing together and empowering communities that, say, a neglected woodland on the edge of a town will. Therefore by looking at all the woodlands together the council can achieve multiple aims that support the desires of a greater percentage of the population.
2) It is more cost effective to manage all the sites together. For instance, work planned on one site should be scheduled so that work at other nearby sites can also be undertaken. For example, felling the trees on Invergowrie Roadside can be undertaken in a morning, and the trees planted at Invergowrie Park in the afternoon.
3) Taking a holistic view of the environment is essential as everything is connected. For example, timber production is often seen as 'anti-environment' because of the monoculture plantations that have very little ground flora. However, wood is the greenest and most sustainable building material and the timber has to be grown in plantations so that the trees are straight and the branches small. So the benefits of using wood as a building material have to be weighed up against the lack of biodiversity in plantations.
4) Having one management plan means that there is one quick reference document that can be used, compared to 36 separate documents.

2 Format

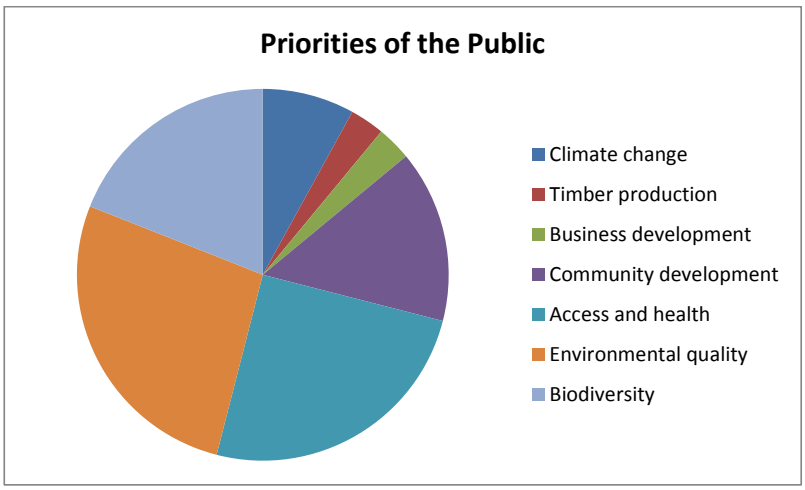
The Forest Plan is set out into two main sections. The first gives the background on a number of the proposals set out in the second, which includes management plans for each site. These individual plans follow the format recommended by the Forestry Commission and this includes background information, site and species descriptions, analysis of constraints and opportunities, and the silvicultural proposals and work plan. There is also a section in each that assesses which of the seven themes of sustainable forestry are supported by the management of that site. The seven themes are climate change, timber production, business development, community development, access and health, environmental quality and biodiversity.

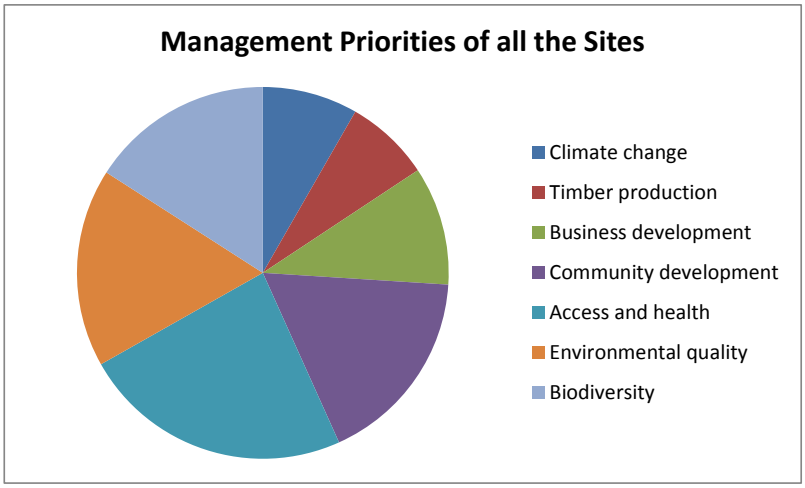
3 Scoping Process

A scoping process was undertaken through June and July 2013. Fourteen open meetings were held across Perth and Kinross and the consultation maps were available for six weeks online along with an online survey; the scoping report is detailed in Appendix A. The number of responses was lower than expected and despite the meetings being widely advertised (local press, local radio, letters to community councils, Council website and posters at each site) attendance to the open days/meetings was low. This could be for the following reasons:

1) The proposals set out in the consultation maps did not propose any major changes from the existing management of the sites and therefore the public felt they didn't have to respond as they agreed with the proposals. More radical proposals would have generated more responses.
2) The public were not aware of the consultation, however, every method of advertising the process was under taken.
3) The public are not interested in the management of the woodlands and green spaces they use. Trees grow slowly and they are sometime slow to die and this general gradual change is often imperceptible to people who only see the trees and woodlands in their peripheral vision. Hopefully the urban woodlands and green spaces are as entrenched in peoples' mind, as the roads and buildings are and are therefore as important to them.

Part of the scoping process was to ask the respondents to rate the themes of the Scottish Forestry Strategy to find out what is most important to them. The results are detailed in Figure 1, alongside the collated analysis of how each site supports these themes (Figure 2).





The management priorities of the sites match closely to the priorities the public would like to see them managed to. Access and health, environmental quality and biodiversity are important to the public, this is mirrored in the management of most of the sites. Community development is also important to the respondents and again this is reflected in the guiding principles of the management of a number of key sites. Climate change, timber production and business development are not as important to residents of Perth and Kinross and this is reflected in the woodland management as very few sites have the potential to produce timber or alleviate the impacts of climate change.

The Forest Plan has been written for a number of audiences:

1) Perth and Kinross Council staff and staff from associated organisations such as the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, as a quick reference when planning work to be undertaken.
2) Residents of Perth and Kinross to let them find out how their local woodlands and green spaces are being managed.
3) Stakeholders such as the local authority archaeologist, SEPA and environmental charities such as the RSPB and Woodland Trust.
4) Visitors to the area in order to find out more about the woodlands they are visiting and enjoying.
5) The Forestry Commission in order to understand how the Council are managing their woods and what timber production can be expected.
6) People who work in the timber industry, so they can appreciate how the Council is managing the woods and why they have the management priorities they do.
7) Other local authorities to see the benefits of having one management plan covering all sites.
8) Anybody else with an interest in the trees and woodlands of Perth and Kinross.

9) Trees and woodlands are essential for society. They provide spaces where we can relax, exercise and play and they improve our moods, our confidence and our feeling of connectedness with our surroundings. The strong ties between people and trees are proven by the resistance of communities to the removal of trees. Trees and woodland contribute immensely as part of the landscape, particularly in their own right in urban areas. They are beneficial to people's quality of life and sense of well-being, reducing everyday stress, which is particularly important in today's environment. In many locations trees pre-date the development around them and provide evidence of the history of those places and thus are a valuable part of their heritage. In addition, research has shown that hospital patients recover more quickly when able to enjoy the view of trees. Their aesthetic value improves the appearance of our environment, giving variety of scale, form, colour and shape. Even though trees may be on private property, their size often makes them part of the community as well. As trees occupy considerable space, planning is required if both the owner and their neighbours are to benefit. With proper selection and maintenance, trees can enhance and function on one property without infringing on the rights and privileges of neighbours.

There are two forest strategies that inform the management plans of the woodlands and green spaces owned by Perth and Kinross Council. These are:

- The Scottish Forest Strategy; and
- Perth and Kinross Forest and Woodland Strategy.

3.1 The Scottish Forest Strategy

The vision of the Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) is for the forestry resource of Scotland to become a central part of its culture, economy and environment. The core principles are based on sustainable development and social inclusion, with forestry integrating effectively with other land uses.

There are seven key themes that have been identified to achieve the vision as detailed in Table 1.

Climate Change	Using forestry and adapting forestry practices to help reduce the impact of climate change and help Scotland adapt to its changing climate.
Timber	Getting the most from Scotland's increasing and sustainable timber resource.
Business Development	To support economic growth and employment across Scotland.

Community Development	Improving the quality of life and well-being of people by supporting community development across Scotland.
Access and Health	Access to, and enjoyment of, woodlands improves physical and mental health.
Environmental Quality	Woodlands can help protect and improve our natural resources such as soil, air and water and improve the scenery and landscape.
Biodiversity	Woodlands help to restore, maintain and enhance biodiversity and the awareness and enjoyment of it.

Delivering the vision will be guided by the principles of:

- Sustainability;
- Long term planning;
- Good woodland management;
- Integrating with other land uses;
- Reflecting regional and local priorities; and
- Maintaining high professional standards.

Of the above principles, this Forest Plan is delivering long term management planning, good woodland management and reflecting local priorities.

3.2 Perth and Kinross Forest and Woodland Strategy 2011

'Perth and Kinross has a historic, diverse and substantial woodland resource and the favourable soil and climatic conditions make it better than many other parts of Scotland for growing high quality timber. We have a unique woodland capital asset, worth being proud of and worth looking after' ***Perth and Kinross Forest and Woodland Strategy***

The Perth and Kinross Forest and Woodland Strategy sets out a vision for trees, woodlands and forests from 2010 to 2030. It states that *'Woodlands and forests make a significant contribution to Perth and Kinross way of life, supporting the region's economy through timber production and as an important back drop to the tourist industry'.*

The Strategy identifies appropriate locations for woodland expansion and recommends management practices of existing woods to optimise the contribution that our woods and forests can make to social, environmental and economic benefits.

There are 88,315 hectares of woodland in Perth and Kinross. The area covered by this plan is a small, but not insignificant part of this, and as publically owned, the woodlands

contained within this plan 'punch well above their weight' in regards to the social and environmental benefits woodlands bring to the region.

The Strategy is based on the SFS themes. For each, key actions have been identified, and Table 2 sets out these key actions, along with examples of how the management of the woodlands in this plan will support them.

Theme	Key Actions	Specific Management Examples
Climate Change	Encourage the expansion of appropriate new woodlands to secure carbon sequestration benefits and minimise woodland removal.	There is no opportunity for new woodland creation, however, all woodlands will be retained and any individual tree removal will be replaced with planted or regenerated trees.
Timber	Promote the establishment and management of broadleaved woods to promote quality timber.	Oaks at Black Spout Wood will be thinned by quality, and individual trees sold to local high end users (furniture, wood turning, and beams).
Business Development	Support the establishment of short rotation coppicing for energy production.	The ash at Puddock Wood and the Knock of Crieff could be coppiced on a 10 year cycle.
Community Development	Promote the provision of welcoming and well managed woodlands in and around communities. Encourage the greater use of woodlands for outdoor learning. Maintain constructive engagement with communities on forestry related issues.	All the woodlands have public access and this is to be maintained and improved. Interpretation is to be installed in all woods and the public have responded to the consultation on this plan, have formed user groups (e.g. Kinnoull Woods Group) as well as informal contact with rangers.
Access and Health	Maintain Core Paths, rights of way and other well used routes through woodland. Seek opportunities to improve access where appropriate during lifetime of the plan.	Interpretation is to be installed in all woods. Core paths, rights of way and other well used routes maintained. Core paths way marked to promote access.
Environmental Quality	Encourage sensitive forest management to enhance the visual impact of woodlands on internal and external views.	Ensure the views area not reduced from the summits on The Knock of Crieff and Kinnoull Hill by tree removal and removing regeneration. Ensure views to the water are not blocked out at the Birks of Aberfeldy, Blairgowrie riverside, Den of Alyth, and Lady Mary's walk by selectively

Theme	Key Actions	Specific Management Examples
		removing regeneration.
Biodiversity	Restore and improve the condition of native woodlands. Encourage conservation effort on species listed in Species Action Plans which are dependent on woodland management.	The gradual removal of non-native species, apart from those with strong cultural connection to the sites, will restore most of the sites to native woodlands. Species listed in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan will be supported through management practices such as retaining standing deadwood.

4 River Basin Management

The production of River Basin Management Plans is one of the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. River basins encompass all the rivers, lochs, wetlands and groundwater that eventually drain into the sea, as well as estuaries and adjacent coastal waters. Taking a source-to-sea approach and integrating land and water management are essential for the effective protection and improvement of the water environment. This is because impacts on one part of a river basin can often have effects elsewhere in that basin. The River Basin Management Plan for Scotland covers all the river basins comprising the Scotland river basin district (there is a second plan for the Solway and Tweed River Basins).

The water environment includes all rivers, lochs, estuaries, coastal waters, artificial waters (such as canals and reservoirs) and groundwater. It also includes all the wetlands that depend on surface waters or groundwater for their water needs.

The environmental quality and natural characteristics of surface waters and groundwater vary widely. To reflect this variation, SEPA has subdivided these waters into over 3,000 water bodies. Classifying the condition of each water body provides a picture of where the water environment is in good condition and where improvements need to be made.

Alterations to banks and beds due to forestry currently account for pressure on 93 waterbodies across Scotland. The aim of the waterbody management plan is for this to be 47 by 2021, and zero by 2027. None of the forest sites that negatively affect these bodies are part of this Forest Plan. However, the terrestrial environment is key to the quality of the water it surrounds and as the woodlands in this Plan are a part of the terrestrial environment they will be looked at in the context of the quality of the water bodies. In 1974 a river quality classification scheme was developed to monitor the quality of all rivers in Scotland. Since the formation of SEPA in 1996 the scheme has been enhanced to incorporate developments in technology and science. The scheme is based on a five point scale and includes all rivers with a catchment area of 10 km2 or more and specific smaller rivers where known pollution problems exist. This is called the "classification network".

Table 3 details the rivers and water bodies directly affected by the woodland and forests in the Forest Plan. Note, many rivers are tributaries of others and those detailed are the rivers directly affected, not those downstream.

River	**Woodland Sites**
River Tay	Perth sites, Luncarty, Stanley
Lower Tay Estuary	Invergowrie sites
Alyth Burn	Alyth
River Ericht	Blairgowrie and Rattray
Urlar Burn	Aberfeldy

River Tummel	Black Spout Wood
Loch Rannoch	Killichonan car park
River Earn	Crieff sites
Ruthven Water	Auchterarder

Table 4 details the quality of the rivers and lochs and gives appropriate site management measures.

Table 4:

Waterbody	**Other Designations**	**Status**	**Pressure from**	**Site Management Measures**
Lower Tay estuary	SAC, SPA, NVZ	Good	Sewerage disposal	Not applicable.
River Tay (Isla to Earn Confluence)	SAC, DWPZ, NVZ	Moderate	Morphological alterations Sewerage	It is not within the scope of the Forest Plan to advise on morphological alterations and the total length of the woodland sites is small compared to the length of the bank.
Alyth Burn	SAC, NVZ	Poor	Morphological alterations Sewerage	It is not within the scope of the Forest Plan to advise on morphological alterations and the total length of the woodland sites is small compared to the length of the bank.
River Ericht	SAC, NVZ	Good	Diffuse source pollution of phosphorous from arable farms	Trees absorb phosphorous and can be used to reduce diffuse pollution. However, the sites are not located adjacent to sources of pollution so their impact can only be negligible.
Urlar Burn	SAC	Moderate to Poor	Abstraction	The management of the woodland sites cannot influence the rates of upstream abstraction. However, trees can reduce evaporation and increase infiltration therefore could be used upstream to reduce the amount of water required.
River Tummel	SAC	Moderate	Morphological	The management of the sites

Waterbody	Other Designations	Status	Pressure from	Site Management Measures
			alterations and flow regulation	has not affected the morphology (recently) due to the distance between them. Flow regulation is also not affected by the woodlands, however, the use of the river for energy production could be off-set by using biomass from woodlands as a renewable energy source. The use of biomass versus hydro schemes for generating power is considered in the Perth and Kinross Forest and Woodland Strategy. As the woodlands in this Forest Plan will be managed on a low intervention continuous cover model significant amounts of biomass fuel will not be produced.
Loch Rannoch	SAC	Good	Abstraction and morphological alterations	The management of the sites has not affected the morphology. Flow regulation is also not affected by the woodlands, however the use of the river for energy production could be off-set by using biomass from woodlands as a renewable energy source. Trees also reduce evaporation and increase infiltration therefore could be used upstream to reduce the amount of water required off site.
River Earn	NVZ	Good	Sewage	Not applicable.
Ruthven Water	NVZ	Good	No pressures	Not applicable.
River Devon	DWPZ	Poor	Abstraction and flow regulation	Flow regulation is not affected by the woodlands, however, the use of the river for energy production could be off-set by using biomass

Waterbody	Other Designations	Status	Pressure from	Site Management Measures
				from woodlands as a renewable energy source. Trees also reduce evaporation and increase infiltration so trees could be used upstream to reduce the amount of water required off site.

Whilst the management of the woodland sites will not improve the condition of the rivers due to the relative size of the woodland sites compared to the river catchment areas, the appropriate management of trees and woodlands can have a positive impact on water quality as follows:

- Intercept sediments, nutrients and pesticides draining from adjacent land;
- Regulate water temperatures by providing the 'right balance' of light and shade;
- Tree roots help stabilise river banks, and roots and stumps provide refuge for fish and other aquatic wildlife;
- Forest canopies can increase the capture of acid pollutants and improve stream pH;
- The variety and seasonality of leaf litter, and associated microbial processes, can maintain energy and nutrient flows. Terrestrial invertebrates that fall from woodland canopies provide food for aquatic organisms; and
- Forests can reduce water flows, reduce erosion and downstream flooding.

UK Forest Standards (UKFS)

It is fully recognised that some Forestry Operations can have a negative impact on the quality of soil, air and water, in particular large but also some small scale commercial forestry operations. Perth and Kinross Council have fully considered this in relation to the Forest Plan and have determined that the scale of works (small scale felling and path works) proposed will have no negative impact on soil, air or water quality including carbon rich soil and wetlands. The long term retention of the woodlands managed in line with the Scottish Forestry Strategy and as described in the Perth & Kinross Forest Plan will ensure the woodlands will enhance soil, air and water quality. To ensure that the forest operations included in the plan do not have a negative impact generally on soil, air and water quality all operations will be carried out in accordance with the UKFS with particular reference and adherence to the Forest & Water Guidelines. This will apply to all forest operations on all of the sites included in the plan but with particular reference to the designated sites with SSSI status.

5 Biodiversity

Biodiversity plays an important role in all aspects of our lives and is one of the themes of the Scottish Forestry Strategy. Managing woodlands for biodiversity is not only a key component of UKWAS (UK Woodland Assurance Standard); it is also an inherent responsibility to maintain the ecological value of our countryside for generations to come.

Species action plans and habitat action plans are an integral part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and set the guidance into a local context. The management of woodlands (and other land uses) should be undertaken with these species and habitats in mind. Tables 5 and 6 give brief descriptions of the species and habitats relevant to the woodlands in this Plan, along with those sites that are particularly relevant and the management actions to be undertaken.

Table 5: Species Action Plans

Species	**Description of Habitat Requirements**	**Forest Plan Sites**	**Action**
Barn Owl	Nest in hollow trees and hunt in rough grassland, forest edges, hedges, field margins and tracks and rides. Decline is due to extensive farming practices and removal of hedgerows.	Include Puddock Wood, Black Spout Wood, Birks of Aberfeldy, Den of Alyth and Abernethy Glen.	With advice from the Tayside Barn Owl Interest Group, install Barn Owl boxes at these sites in large trees at the edge of woodlands.
Adders	Undisturbed and uninhabitable countryside of heathery hills and forest rides. Threats include increased access of the countryside from hikers and mountain bikers.	Open areas of Black Spout Wood and small areas of Kinnoull Hill.	Maintain dedicated footpaths and mountain bikes trails to reduce disturbance.
Otter	Streams with an abundance of fish and amphibians for food, and holts can be within bankside tree roots and dense vegetation.	Rumbling Bridge, Den of Alyth, Birks Of Aberfeldy.	Follow the FC's Forest and Water Guidelines by undertaking surveys and sensitive woodland management practices along rivers.
Red Squirrels	Wooded habitats, from conifer forest to broadleaf woodland, including urban parks and gardens. Most	None of the woods in this plan are considered priority woodlands, however,	Ensure all woods have species that provide food for Red Squirrels (Pine,

Species	Description of Habitat Requirements	Forest Plan Sites	Action
	abundant in woodlands of Scots Pine or mixed conifers. Can also survive well in broad leaf woodland, especially those with plentiful hazel nuts.	,they all can provide food and habitat for red squirrels. Black Spout Wood, Den of Alyth, Kiliechonan and The Birks of Aberfeldy are all in the northern part of Tayside where Red Squirrels outnumber greys.	Spruce, Larch and Hazel are important species). Increase the amount of these species in the northern woodlands. Consider trapping grey squirrels.
Salmon	Fry and Parr eat invertebrates and they require shallow water with a stony substrate, although this gets deeper as they grow bigger. One of the causes for a decline in fish numbers is habitat degradation from intensification of agriculture, sediment run off, grazing of riparian vegetation and bank erosion.	All rivers within woodlands in this plan feed into salmon rivers.	Woodlands should be managed in line with the FC Water Guidelines. Tree cover should be maintained to stabilise banks and reduce run off, and gaps created if the trees are heavily shading the stream.
Bats (two Pipistrelle species, the Brown Long-eared bat, Daubenton's bat and Natterer's bat)	Use deciduous woodland and woodland edges for hunting. Threats are due to loss of roost sites and reduction in diversity of trees and plants which in turn have led to a reduction in associated insects.	All	Leaving standing dead wood in woodlands for roost sites. Encouraging ground flora and diversity in woodland plants.

Table 6:

Habitat	Description	Sites	Action
Birchwoods	Silver birch and Downey birch dominate with occasionally very small quantities of oak, hazel, rowan, willow, juniper, ash, aspen or Scots	Birks of Aberfeldy and Kiliechonan.	Maintain the dominance of the birch by removing non-native species.

Habitat	Description	Sites	Action
	pine. Considered to be a transitional phase before eventual development into pine, oak or ash wood. Threats due to fragmentation, over-grazing and being overrun with non-native species.		Monitor regeneration and protect seedlings if beneath desired levels.
Lowland mixed broadleaved	Encompass a wide range of woodlands, with a variety of tree species reflecting something of their past history and the type and intensity of their management. Oak, ash and birch are the naturally dominant species in semi-natural woodland areas with elm, wild cherry, hazel, etc. present in varying proportions as well as beech and sycamore. Threats have been clearing for other land uses and being taken over by exotic species and fragmentation.	Den of Alyth, Parts of Kinnoull Hill, Crieff sites and Abernethy Glen.	Gradually remove beech and sycamore, or manage the regeneration to stop them taking over.
Wet woodlands	Dominated by alder and willow they frequently occur in an intimate mosaic with other woodland habitats. Threats are from drainage and vegetation changes, especially from invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed.	Areas within Black Spout Wood and to the south of the A9 at Auchterarder	Monitor the sites and remove any exotic vegetation.
Upland Oak Woods	Defined as those woodlands dominated by oak. Birch is generally present in the canopy with varying amounts of Holly Rowan, Hazel and occasionally Aspen present as the predominant understorey species.	Black Spout Wood	Selective felling to create gaps to support an understory of oak should be undertaken.
Upland Pine Woods	Pine is the characteristic tree species in native pine woods though they also contain varying amounts of Birch species and other broadleaves, with Juniper often an important component in the understorey. Threats have come from conversion of woodland to moorland for game management, removal for development and loss of regeneration due to deer.	Parts of Kinnoull Hill, Provost's walk, Auchterarder and parts of the Knock of Crieff	Plant a pine understory and remove non-native species such as sycamore and beech.

5.1 Habitat Networks

75% of Scotland was covered in woodland after the last post-glacial maximum extent. This was reduced to around 4% in the 17th century and it is now around 18%. The woodlands that currently exist are small and many are isolated from one another. The reduction in areas (or core area) has led to increased local extinctions, whilst increased isolation causes a reduction in the exchange of individuals between isolated patches, threatening their long-term viability.[1]

Habitat networks are intended to reverse the deleterious effects of fragmentation by linking existing habitat to provide large connected areas which are capable of sustaining a greater biodiversity. The principle objective of a habitat network is to enhance biodiversity. A habitat network specifically focuses on the connectivity of a single habitat, such as 'heathland' in general or the more specific 'Caledonian pinewood' or for a single species, such as red squirrels.

5.2 Highland Perthshire Habitat Network

The assessment of the Highland Perthshire Habitat Network commissioned by the FC and SNH in 2003 identified five core forest woodland types and seven forest corridors.

Of the sites in this Plan, the following fall into one of these areas:

- Kiliechonan is within the core area of semi-natural birch woodland found around Loch Rannoch.
- Lady Mary's Walk is along the upper Earn corridor.

The eight aspirations set out to achieve an improvement in the highland Perthshire Habitat Network are to:

1) Restore, expand and link existing areas of semi-natural woodland;
2) Widen corridors;
3) Close gaps;
4) Encourage woodland on watersheds;
5) Expand floodplain forests;
6) Expand high elevation woodland;
7) Redesign large conifer woodlands; and
8) Develop links to other areas.

Of these, due to the limited areas for new planting, only the redesign of conifer woodlands can be supported through this Plan. This can be achieved at Provost's Walk, Auchterarder.

[1] Forest Habitat Networks. Mosley Ray Watts Humphry 2008

5.3 Small Scale Habitat Networks

There is value in looking at the local level habitat networks and by doing so there are a number of sites within this plan that connect similar woodlands to one another, or to other woodlands. These include:

- Lady Mary's Walk connects the semi-urban tree cover of Crieff to Puddock Wood and another 5 km of broadleaved woodland all the way through to Auchingarrich.
- The Knock of Crieff links with the neighbouring property owned by Crieff Hydro and also connects with other broadleaved woodland through to Monzie Castle.
- The Den of Alyth links 2 km of broadleaved woodland to the west with the new planting Forestry Commission site on the hill of Alyth.
- Kinnoull Hill is adjacent to the FC owned section of the park and Deuchy Wood. Whilst the core area is large, there is little connectivity beyond the main site.
- The Birks of Aberfeldy link areas of coniferous woodlands to the east with birch woods to the west.
- Black Spout Wood is adjacent to the woods owned Athol Palace Hotel to the east, as well as a strip of wood on the eastern bank of the River Tummel.
- The woods at Auchterarder form part of a woodland complex that stretches for 3 km to Cornhill.

Due to the distribution of the sites throughout Perthshire, and the limitations of new planting due to landownership and development, it is unrealistic to aim to link the woodlands together. However, in relation to this plan, there are a number of management practices that can be undertaken to improve the habitat networks that currently exist. These are to:

- Aim for a species mix that complements neighbouring woodlands;
- Avoid clear-felling sections that act a wildlife corridors;
- Use natural features such as rivers as potential corridors; and
- Communicate with neighbouring properties.

5.4 Urban Habitat Networks

The urban green spaces contained within this Plan also perform an important ecological and social role.

6 Pests and Diseases

There are a number of tree pests and diseases in Scotland that may have a dramatic impact on the woodland in this Plan, and woodlands in general over the next 20 years. Table 7 lists known diseases that have some presence in Scotland in woodlands similar to those in this Plan. Table 8 lists European diseases that may find their way to the UK. In addition, there may well be catastrophic consequences of an introduction to the UK of a pest the scientific community do not yet know about.

Table 7: Top Pest and Disease Threats Present in Britain

Tree Species	Disease
Broadleaves	Asian longhorn beetle – wood-boring insect that can cause extensive damage to a range of urban and forest broadleaved trees.
Ash	Chalara dieback of ash – an aggressive fungal disease of ash trees which causes crown death and wilting and dieback of branches.
Pines	Dothistroma needle blight – formerly known as red band needle blight, and caused by the *Dothistroma septosporum* fungus. Causes mortality and loss of timber yield in pine trees. Main host is Corsican pine, but lodgepole and Scots pine also increasingly affected.
Larch	*Phytophthora ramorum* - a fungus-like organism which attacks many trees and plants. The economically important larch is a host, and large numbers have had to be felled.
Pine	Pine tree lappet moth (*Dendrolimus pini*) –discovered breeding in Inverness-shire pine plantation forests. Can be a serious defoliator of pines and other conifer trees in some parts of its native range in Europe.

The following threats are not yet present in the natural environment in Britain:

- Citrus longhorn beetle (FERA website) – a wood-boring insect that can cause extensive damage to a range of urban and forest broadleaved trees. Very similar in appearance and effects to Asian longhorn beetle.
- Emerald ash borer (Agrilus planipennis) – a wood-boring insect that causes widespread mortality of ash trees and loss of timber value.
- Pinewood nematode – a worm that can cause serious tree damage and mortality.
- Pine processionary moth (Thaumetopoea pityocampa) – a species whose caterpillars can cause serious damage to pine and other conifer trees, and which also cause a public and animal health hazard.

6.1 Response and Management

As we do not yet know what diseases will affect the woodlands within this Plan, and if they do with what severity, it is difficult to advise on the best course of action. However, there are a number general rules that can be followed:

- Follow guidelines on biosecurity for Council staff and put up notices for the public.
- Follow the advice of the Forestry Commission and keep up to date with developments in tree pests and diseases.
- Monitoring and quick response – evidence from the Edinburgh City Council Dutch Elm disease program shows that the impact of a disease can be dramatically slowed down by a monitoring and quick response programme.
- If tree deaths occur, retain as much deadwood as possible (assuming the pest is not breeding from the tree).

7 Climate Change

Measures to mitigate and adapt to the predicted effects of climate change will be incorporated into the strategy wherever possible, taking full account of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact

The magnitude and rate of predicted climate change means that trees and woodlands will be significantly affected. Adaptation is therefore an important issue and should be addressed at the earliest opportunity. This is particularly important because of the long time-frame associated with any management decisions made in tree and woodland management. By the 2080s, an oak tree planted now will be less than half-way through its anticipated life, whilst as a component of semi-natural woodland, it would still be at a juvenile stage. The difficulty for the council is ensuring that decisions made now, particularly over planting material, are appropriate to both the current and future climate. Initially, the impact of climate change is likely to be most serious and apparent in the southern half of the UK. Young and newly established trees, together with street trees and trees in hedgerows are likely to be the first affected. Mortality will increase and species suitability will change, therefore it is important to consider the planting stock in adapting to climate change.

Woodland networks will also provide the opportunity for both native fauna and flora to migrate as climate change progresses. It is well documented that trees offer significant benefits of removing CO2 from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. This CO2 is bound and stored as carbon within the tree. This carbon will remain in the tree up to the point that it is felled. Carbon is held within the tree's foliage, roots, branches and trunks. It is estimated within forest research that each tree locks up 0.546kg of carbon annually, equivalent to 2kg of CO2. Research has also shown that woodland soils sequester a large amount of carbon, and plant matter is the single most important source of carbon in soil.

Perth and Kinross Council is committed to proactively working to achieve the Government's targets set out in the 2008 Climate Change Act, which commits the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, and CO2 by at least 26% by 2020.
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/climatechange/scotlands-action/climatechangeact

The key mechanisms to achieve a reduction in carbon emissions are to reduce energy consumption through increased energy efficiency, e.g. developing low carbon homes and by moving to renewable energy sources. This will be achieved through the Council's Carbon Management Plan. http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/1931/Carbon-management-plan .

The produce from managing the trees and woodlands could be used as carbon neutral fuel to power heating and/or combined heat and power equipment for buildings. Whilst using locally produced wood fuel may go some way to supporting this target, it is not a project that is currently classed as 'in scope' within this target, however, the authority is happy to explore this aspect further and open discussion with interested parties. It is considered likely that the composition of trees and woodland adjoining residential areas will be changed. High water demanding species and species prone to gale damage will be removed and replaced with more suitable species. Natural regeneration of native species will be encouraged so that the natural genetic variation will provide a buffer against climatic variation. Species sensitive to drought conditions such as Beech, Silver Birch and Yew will form no more than 10% of planting.

8 Big Tree Country

Perthshire has a rich history of plant collectors and innovative thinkers in forestry, and as a response to the need to promote this unique history, the Big Tree Country organisation was formed. The aims of Big Tree Country are to promote sites with iconic or important trees, attract funding for access and management, liaise with landowners and organise events to engage and inspire people of all generations.

'Just a short trip can take you to Europe's oldest tree, the world's highest hedge, the sole survivor from Shakespeare's 'Birnam Wood…and that's not all.' Big Tree Country

The sites covered in this Plan that are also Big Tree Country sites are:

- Black Spout Wood;
- Den of Alyth; and
- Blairgowrie Riverside.

Other sites that are promoted by Big Tree Country are:

- Lady Mary's Walk;
- MacRosty Park;
- Knock of Crieff;
- Birks of Aberfeldy; and
- Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park.

Big Tree Country links these sites and highlights the importance of trees and forests not to just the environment, but also to the history and economy of an area. People visiting one site will be inspired by the site and want to visit others. In addition, communicating how forward thinking these collectors and landowners of the past were will encourage those reading about them to embrace new ideas and concepts themselves. Forward thinking people of the past inspire forward thinking people of the future. This is especially important now as the effects of climate change are starting to be felt and the landscape of Scotland is likely to change dramatically over the next 50 to 100 years.

Big Tree Country is funded by Perth and Kinross Council, Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, Visit Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Forestry Commission Scotland and Gleneagles Hotel. Funding for Big Tree Country Projects has come from:

- The Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme;
- The Heritage Lottery Fund;
- The Gannochy Trust;
- LEADER Rural Tayside;
- The Scotland Rural Development Programme;
- Perth & Kinross Quality of Life Trust; and

- The Jim Aitken Bequest.

9 Urban Forestry

The management of forests, woodlands and trees within an urban context has started to get the attention it deserves and most cities now have strategies for their trees, woodlands and greenspaces. Whilst it is recognised that woodlands, trees and greenspaces are important for large urban areas, they are also important for smaller cities and towns that can often be viewed as being 'almost rural anyway', and so are overlooked when considering funding or opportunities for investment in wooded areas that are accessible to the public. However, it can often be as difficult for residents of smaller towns, cities and even villages to enjoy spending time in woodlands and open spaces, as proximity to farmland and private estates does not equal proximity to outdoor spaces they can enjoy being in.

Trees and woodlands in urban areas have many benefits. They:

- Define urban form and act as barriers, boundaries and gateways;
- Soften visual impacts of development;
- Provide shelter and shade;
- Reduce noise and air pollution;
- Keep people living in the urban environment in touch with the changing seasons;
- Enable people to see and get close to wildlife; and
- Provide a space away from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

The biggest difference between managing urban woodland and a woodland found in rural areas is the importance that woodlands have to the people who see it, walk through it, play in it, or just know it is there. Therefore, simply managing it for the sake of timber or wildlife is not enough. The desires and preferences of the users of the woodland have to be taken into consideration, even if these go against the needs of the wildlife and timber production. For example, in Muirton woods there is enough good quality spruce logs to fill a couple of timber wagons and the price of timber is good at the moment. However, clear felling the site would destroy small urban woodlands that are used daily by a lot of the local residents. Another example is the Den O'Alyth, the SSSI status means that it would be preferable to remove all non-native trees such as beech. However, the beech glades are attractive and are very popular with users of the site and therefore cannot simply just be removed.

Most of the sites within the plan are considered urban woodlands and some of the key sites are listed below:

- Loon Braes, Rattray;
- Den O'Alyth;
- Lady Mary's Walk;
- Luncarty; and
- All the Perth sites.

10 Outdoor Play and Learning through Nature

Being, and playing, outside is crucial for children. The woodlands and forests contained within the Plan can offer excellent opportunities for outdoor play, both formally and informally. Outdoor play is important because:

- Through freely chosen outdoor play activities, children learn skills necessary for adult life. These include social competence, problem solving, creative thinking and safety skills[2];
- When playing outdoors, children grow emotionally and academically by developing an appreciation for the environment, participating in imaginative play, and developing initiative. Between the ages of three and 12 children require vigorous movements and play activities to enhance muscle growth, support the growth of their heart and lungs and stimulate the digestive system.[3] It also increases the growth and development of the fundamental nervous centres in the brain;
- There is a direct link between outdoor physical activity and a reduction in obesity and a reduction in infections in children as well as adults. This in turn has a positive impact on the healthcare system and academic attainment in school;
- Children who are active will be far more likely to turn into active adults; and
- Children and adults who are regularly in contact with nature are less likely to suffer from mental health problems.

10.1 Forest Kindergartens and Forest Schools

A forest kindergarten is a type of preschool education for children between the ages of three and six that is held almost exclusively outdoors. Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to play, explore and learn in a forest or natural environment. The adult supervision is meant to assist rather than lead. Forest kindergartens are usually run as a block of one day a week for six to eight weeks, usually through existing childcare providers. Of the sites within this plan there are three that are adjacent to, or very close to schools – Luncarty Woods, Abernethy Glen and Loon Braes, Rattray.

In addition to forest kindergartens and forest schools there are also a number of other outdoor learning providers that use woodlands as classrooms. These may be for just a few hours a day, or for longer periods during the school holidays.

10.2 Older Children

[2] Clements, R. An investigation of the status of outdoor play. Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood, Vol 5, 2004
[3] Clements, R 1998

Woodlands and green spaces can provide a safe place for older children to congregate, meet their friends and develop an awareness of the natural world. What has in previous generations has been called 'larking about' can now be labelled anti-social behaviour and in some instances this is true, especially when the groups of youngsters are large and there is a lot of damage done to trees and litter left behind. However, it is essential that older children get the opportunity and the space to make their own boundaries.

Table 9 summarises the sites contained within the Plan that are particularly suitable for encouraging outdoor play. However, this list is not exhaustive as all the sites within the Plan are suitable for outdoor play. As well as these uses, the woodlands are also used for learning through other groups such as the Scouts and Guides.

Table 9

Site	Opportunities
Luncarty	The woods are in the centre of the village and close to the school. By felling a couple of trees and cutting them into 'natural play' structures, light will be increased to the forest floor which will help natural regeneration.
Knock of Crieff	The gradual removal of non-native species will provide wood to be left for children to play on and clamber over. Some of the structures should be left close enough to the path to be seen, and a collection of different types should be left near the lower car-park.
Abernethy Glen	Areas in the south that are already used for informal play.
Tulloch	The woods behind Wallace Crescent should be cleared of undergrowth near the paths to improve access, and the woods behind the play park should have their canopies opened and the timber from felled trees placed in such a way as to encourage children to play on them.
Muirton and Inveralmond	The spruce at Muirton is to be thinned and the timber produced should be shaped as natural furniture as well as natural play equipment.
Kinnoull Hill	The removal of the sycamore will increase the dead wood on site as well as providing opportunities for basic pieces of natural play equipment to be left in the wood.
Blairgowrie	The stumps of felled trees should be left in-situ and any trunks of the felled sycamore or maple should be made into beams for play.

11 Community Food Production

Providing space for people to grow their own food is important for many reasons. Many people want to become more self-sufficient and are interested in growing their own produce, but do not have any outdoor space of their own. In addition, growing food is good for physical and mental health and it helps the environment by reducing food miles and food wastage.

Most urban and semi-urban areas have allotments that are available for rent although there can be long waiting lists for them. Of the sites within the plan, Moncrieff Island has an allotment site. It would be possible to create new ones on other greenspace sites, however, the creation of a new allotment site within the other green space sites within the Plan may not be possible when weighed against the other uses. Therefore to support community food production other methods and opportunities have to be investigated. These can include:

1) Agroforestry – where crops are grow alongside trees;
2) Silvopastural – where animals are grazed in woodlands; and
3) Orchards and fruit trees.

11.2 Agroforestry

Growing crops amongst trees is only successful if the trees are widely spaced and allow enough light through onto the forest floor. Of the sites within the Plan only a couple have a wide enough canopy to facilitate growing food (some areas of Black Spout Wood and a couple of areas within Provosts Walk), however, these small areas are so spread out and a long way from the infrastructure required to get the site working and maintained that it would be not worthwhile undertaking this.

11.3 Orchards and Fruit Trees

Orchards and fruit trees are an excellent way of giving urban populations access to food without compromising other uses for the land. Not only do they produce fruit but the blossom is attractive in the spring and they are brilliant for insects and bees. The Carse of Gowrie Orchard Project is active in the eastern area of Perth and Kinross and it is recommended on a number of sites that fruit trees are planted, either as replacement trees or alongside the existing trees.

Table 10: Sites with potential for planting fruit trees

Site	**Opportunity**
Invergowrie Park	Fruit trees should be planted as replacement trees and a small orchard should be planted.

Larch Plantation, Tulloch	There are already a number of fruit trees alongside the larch and more should be planted.
Larghan Park	The existing fruit trees should be maintained and replaced if required.
Abernethy Glen	Group of fruit trees planted in the open area by the standing stones.

12 Tree Safety Surveys

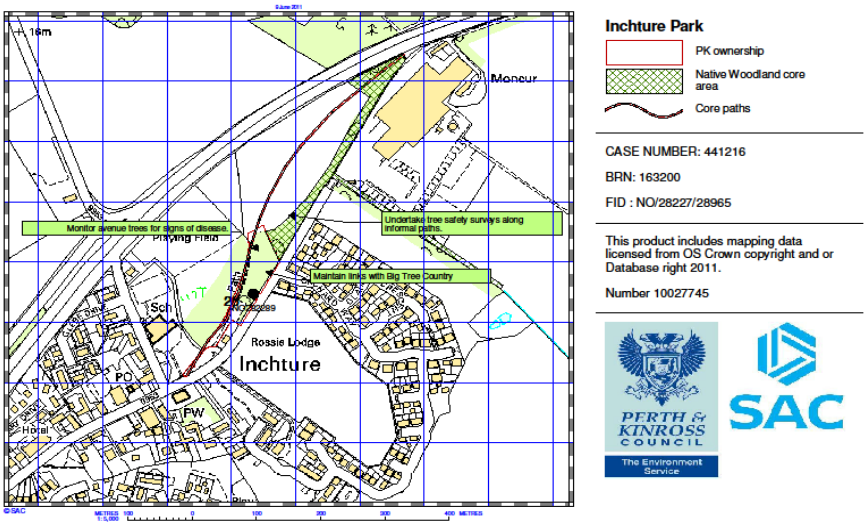
Responsibilities are placed on land owners to safeguard the public and employees from danger through the Occupiers Liability (Scotland) Act 1960 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Powers are given to Councils under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to ensure that road users are safeguarded from danger from roadside trees even when these are on private land. Legislation also provides ways of safeguarding particular trees from harm through the use of tree preservation orders made under the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 which is also able to protect trees in conservation areas. Council duties under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 to improve provisions for wildlife are also reflected within this plan.

The priority in managing trees and woodlands belonging to the Council is, first and foremost, public safety. Where a tree constitutes a demonstrable hazard to people or property, then the appropriate works will be carried out as a matter of urgency to render the tree safe. The Council is also committed to maintaining the health and longevity of trees through appropriate management and works will be undertaken on unhealthy trees where they are threatened by disease or instability. In addition, trees on Council land will be encouraged to develop a natural form, characteristic of their particular species wherever this is appropriate. To achieve this, any works on trees will be carried out to the highest standards of Arboricultural practice, in accordance with all relevant health and safety legislation and to the British Standard BS 3998 2010 standards. Whilst resources are focussed on delivering the priorities and standards set out above, there are many issues which the public expect or would like the Council to address regarding trees on Council owned land, which cannot be resolved . The tree management policy http://www.perthshire.com/article/8745/Tree-Management-Policy therefore sets out the Council's position on dealing with these issues and additional advice which will assist members of the public, Councillors and officers alike. The advice provided is for general guidance purposes only and individuals should seek their own legal advice in specific cases.

This Forest Plan recommends that all trees adjacent to footpaths or play parks, or areas that are well used, should be inspected with a frequency that access and tree officers within the Council deem appropriate, with remediation work undertaken as soon as possible. The Forestry Commission guidance is *'A general principle to be observed is that, in areas where people or property could be at risk from tree failure, routine inspections should be carried out frequently enough to detect any hazards that may have recently developed. Hazards from large old trees sometimes develop quite rapidly, for which reason an inspection frequency of one year or more is generally advisable where such trees occur on high-usage sites. Inspections should also be made immediately after any exceptionally severe weather event that might have caused damage to trees'*.

13 Inchture Park

13.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Inchture Park covers an area of 1.96 ha and is located in the north-east of Inchture.

Altitude

The site is 15 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Carpow brown forest soils.

History

The giant redwoods are some of the first to be planted outside of California. The trees are not marked on the 1832 maps and it is only on the 1956 maps that the area is shown as being wooded, however, the trees are over 160 years old. Local farmer and fruit grower,

Patrick Matthew, planted the avenue in 1852 from seeds his sons in California had sent to him.

Community Interest

The local primary school has been involved in improving the site and the site is promoted by Big Tree Country.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 18 June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is to manage with low intervention to achieve a small wildlife sanctuary in the middle of the village and to monitor the health of the avenue of Wellingtonia.

Management Objectives

1) To replace any of the Wellingtonia if they need to be removed.
2) To monitor the health of the trees periodically.
3) To manage the green space for the enjoyment of all.
4) To maintain the condition of the paths.

Site and Species Descriptions

An avenue of giant redwoods runs north east/south west through the Park. The remainder of the area is open green space with some semi mature-mature mixed broadleaves around the edges.

Stand Data

As well as the avenue of Welligtonia, there are approximately 30 semi-mature to mature trees.

Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

13.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no archaeological designations on the site although the trees themselves are over 160 years old.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site.

Herbivore

There was no sign of deer damage and this would be unexpected due to the location of the site. There have been sightings of Red Squirrels in the area.

Social

The local community are proud of the park and the school has previously been involved in replacing some of the trees.

Public Access

There is a moderate amount of public usage of the park, mainly from local people.

13.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The woodland is a store of carbon.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber arising from this plan	Low
Business development	The trees add texture and colour to the village centre and the avenue of redwoods may attract people interested in Victorian plants and the Big Tree Country.	Low
Community development	The local primary school is interested in the park and the history of the trees and the children and parents have helped out on improving an area of the park.	High
Access and health	The park is used by local people for exercise and the path is a designated Core Path.	Medium
Environmental quality	The woodland will intercept rainfall and reduce surface runoff in the area.	Low
Biodiversity	The woodland is a small wildlife haven in the village.	Low

13.4 Links with other Council Policies

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The trees increase the desirability and attractiveness of living and working in Inchture and attract visitors who are interested in big trees.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The site provides a wildlife haven and supports the sustainability aims of the community plans. The interest from the local primary school supports the principle of community engagement.

13.5 Silvicultural Policy

To maintain tree cover and remove any trees that pose a threat to the public.

Felling and Thinning

No felling or thinning is planned.

Restructuring and New Planting

No restructuring or new planting will take place.

Management of Open Areas

The grass areas will be kept as amenity green space and the grass will be cut throughout the growing season.

Protection and Maintenance

The condition of the paths and fences will be checked periodically.

Herbivore Impact

There is no evidence of damage from herbivores.

13.6 Public Access

The main path that runs through the avenue is a designated Core Path and it is well used by local residents.

13.7 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2034
Tree safety surveys and subsequent										

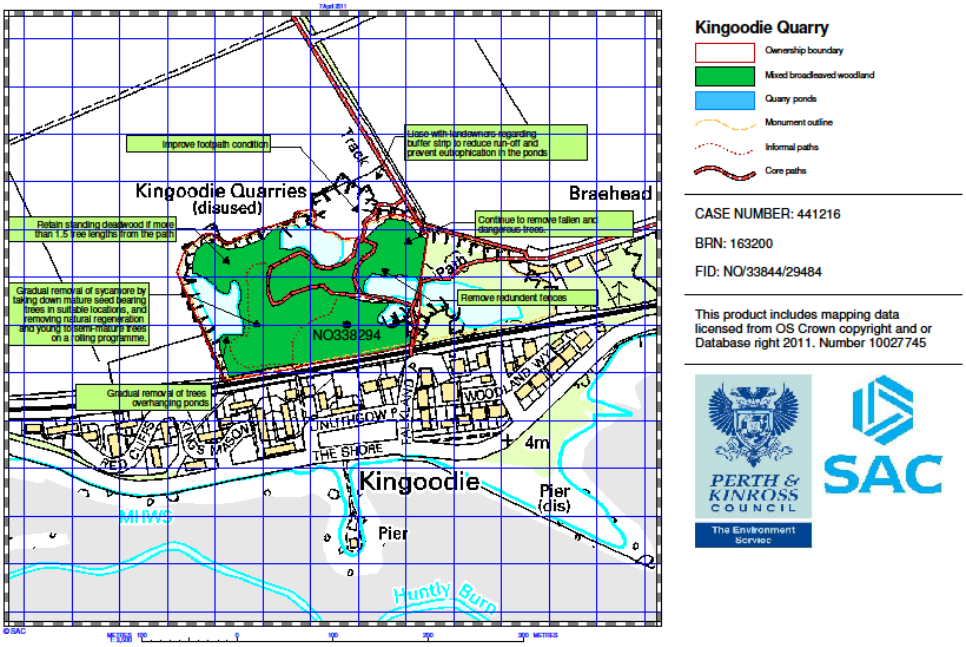
work required.										

13.8 Production Forecast

Not applicable.

14 Kingoodie Quarry

14.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council and private ownership. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Quarry covers an area of 4.9 ha, Perth and Kinross Council ownership covers 3.42 ha, and the remaining 1.48 ha in the east is owned by the private residence that neighbours the quarry. The Quarry lies to the north of Kingoodie, west of Dundee. It is accessible from Kingooding along the path that runs under the railway and from the path that runs from Braehead in the north east.

Altitude

The site is between sea level and 10 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Carpow/Panbridge brown forest soils.

Perth and Kinross Council Forest Plan 2015 – 2035

History

The site has been a quarry since 1452 and the stone was used for building nearby Castle Huntly. It closed around 60 years ago and is now owned and managed by the Council.

Community Interest

The site is well used by walkers and some cyclists and there is some antisocial behaviour reported. There is no active users group although some local residents take an interest in the woodland management.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on the 18 June 2013.No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for native mixed broadleaved woodland that is well used by local residents and that supports a number of BAP species.

Management Objectives

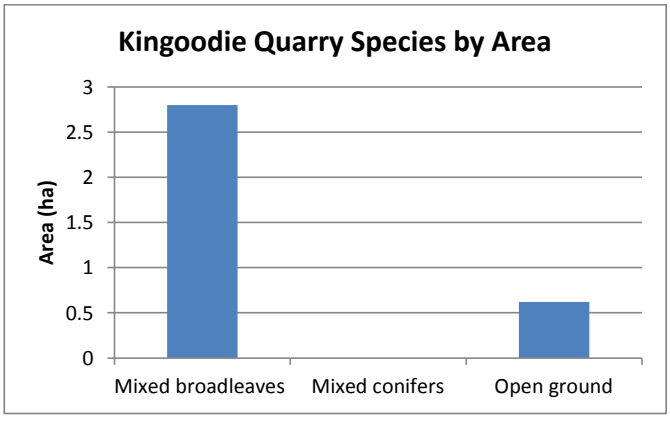
1) To remove non-native sycamore.
2) To remove redundant fences.
3) Improve the water quality and amenity value of the pond.
4) To maintain the paths to a standard appropriate to the site.

Site and Species Descriptions

A mixed broadleaved woodland of mixed age class with a significant amount of sycamore at seed bearing age and a high level of natural regeneration. Other species include ash, birch, rowan and oak as well as some willow and alder. There are a few small open glades and open ground along wayleaves. There is also a pond in the former quarry, however, the water quality is poor and there is no evidence of any fish.

Figure 3: View over Kingoodie Quarry

Stand Data



Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

14.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

Aside from the quarry workings there are no archaeological features on site.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site.

Herbivore

There is evidence of rabbits and browsing by deer although there is a significant amount of natural regeneration so browsing is not having a detrimental impact. This will be monitored.

Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed should be monitored and controlled if required.

Social

There are no active user groups although the site is well used by local residents.

Public Access

There are a number of footpaths within the wood and there are also two Core Paths.

14.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The trees are a carbon store and the paths are used for residents to walk from Kingoodie to the shop in Invergowie, reducing the use of cars.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber arising from this plan	Low
Business development	The woodland increases the desirability of the area by providing a 'natural' local destination.	Low
Community development	Local residents enjoy the woodland and it is an informal meeting place for people out walking.	Low
Access and health	The paths are well used by local residents and people working nearby and they offer an interesting route outside for exercise and enjoying the natural environment.	Medium

Theme	Aims	Priority
Environmental quality	The woodland will intercept rainfall and reduce surface runoff in the area. In addition, trees and woodlands intercept airborne pollution and can provide shade in the summer and warmth in the winter.	Medium
Biodiversity	The mixed broadleaved woodland provides habitats for many species, including bats and owls.	Medium

14.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The trees increase the desirability and attractiveness of living and working in Kingoodie.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The site provides a wildlife haven and supports the sustainability aims of the community plans. The woodland also provides a site for informal play for children and young adults.

14.5 Silvicultural Policy

The woodland will be managed under a continuous cover forestry regime with selective felling of non-native tree species to allow a native woodland to develop.

Felling and Thinning

Sycamores will be gradually removed over a period of 20 years with seed bearing trees removed first. Three to four trees should be removed each year. Trees that are near the path will be felled and cut up and left as dead wood habitat on the forest floor. Trees that are away from the paths will be ring barked and left as standing deadwood. In addition, trees overhanging the pond will also be removed to reduce the nutrient levels.

Restructuringand New Planting

No restructuring or new planting will take place.

Management of Open Areas

The small glades and wayleaves will be mown in late summer to support the native wild flower populations.

Protection and Maintenance

The condition of the paths and fences will be checked periodically and redundant fences will be removed.

Herbivore Impact

The impact of herbivore browsing is not having a detrimental impact on the woodland age structure at present. This will be monitored and if browsing pressure increases tree protection will be used to protect young native trees.

14.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2034
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										
Removal of sycamore.										
Removal of trees overhanging the pond,										

Felling Period	Area of Thinning (ha)	Area of Felling (net area) (ha)	Restructuring Area by Successor Crop Types (net area of species, other land to cover open ground) (ha)						
			Sitka Spruce	Other Conifer	Mixed Broadleaves	Native Broadleaves	Caledonian Scots Pine	Natural Regeneration	Other land
2015	2.8	0.09						0.04	0.05
2017	2.8	0.04						0.04	
2019	2.8	0.04						0.04	
2021	2.8	0.04						0.04	
2023	2.8	0.04						0.04	

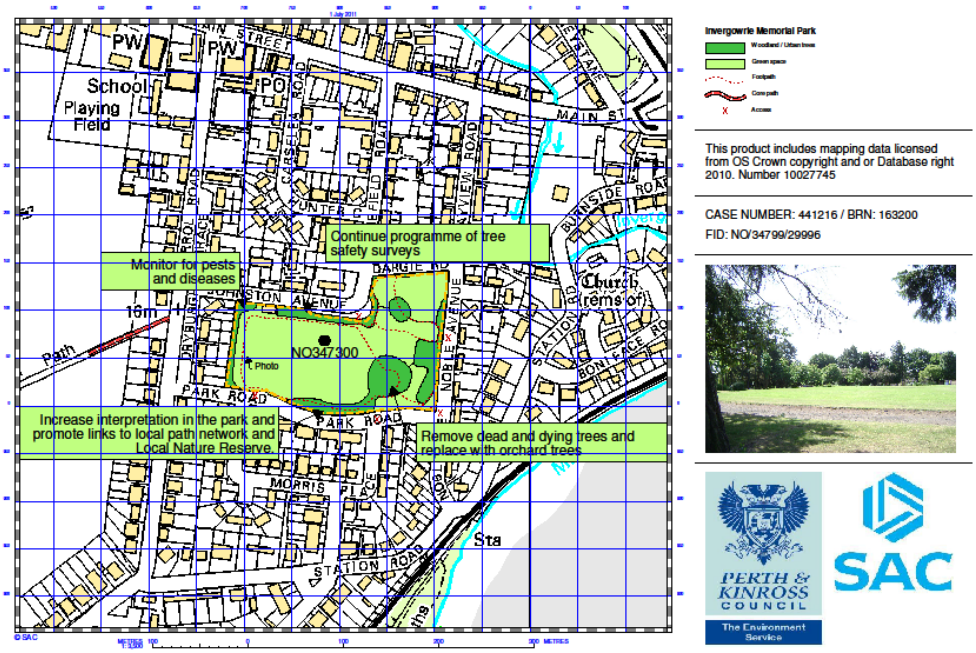
Totals		0.25						0.20	0.05

14.7 Production Forecast

Year	Sycamore
2014	0
2015	4 m^3
2016	0
2017	4 m^3
2018	0
2019	4 m^3
2020	0

15 Invergowrie Park

15.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Invergowrie Park covers an area of 0.91 ha and is located in the centre of Invergowrie approximately 400 m from the school and 250 m from the train station. It is within a residential area and is overlooked by the houses surrounding the park.

Altitude

The site is 10 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are alluvial deposits with an upper brown forest soils layer.

Community Interest

There is a lot of use of the park by the local population, although there is no dedicated 'friends of' group.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 18th June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is to manage the existing trees as an integral part of the green space and to create a community orchard within the park.

Management Objectives

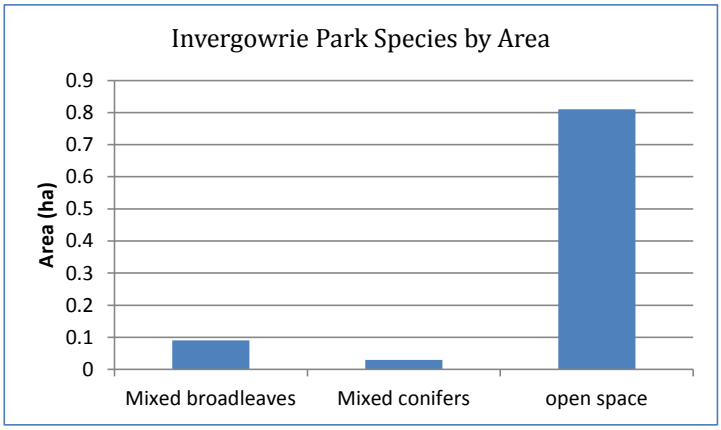
1) To monitor the existing trees for signs of disease and decay.
2) To maintain the grass as amenity greenspace.
3) Dedicate an area to the creation of a community orchard and replace any trees that are removed on health and safety grounds with orchard trees.

Site and Species Descriptions

Mixed broadleaves and conifer trees, mainly mature with some younger trees along the boundary. The trees cover around 15% of the park.

Figure 4: Invergowrie Park

Stand Data



Survey Data

No surveys have been under taken.

15.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are two archaeological interests in the park. The first is the park itself and the second is evidence of rig and furrow. The rig and furrow area should remain as grass.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site.

Herbivore

There are grey squirrels on site.

Social

There is occasionally some dumping of household rubbish and some graffiti.

Public Access

There are no Core Paths within the park, but there are a number of high quality footpaths across and around the perimeter of the park.

15.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	The park is primarily an open green space and therefore there is little scope for planting more trees to sequester carbon.	Low

Theme	Aims	Priority
	Green spaces play an important role in flood and catchment management and help towards the adaption to climate change.	
Timber	The handful of commercial timber trees on site are unsuitable for timber production.	Low
Business development	The park is an important feature in the local landscape which will attract people to live there.	Low
Community development	The park is a geographical focus of the local community and is used for sports events. The planting of orchard trees will link into the Carse of Gowrie orchard project.	Medium
Access and health	Open spaces and woodlands improve physical and mental health. They are naturally therapeutic and have a positive effect on anxiety and depression.	Medium
Environmental quality	The trees will trap harmful dust particles and absorb gases such as sulphur dioxide and ozone. The open space will reduce runoff compared to the surrounding urban environment, provide shade in the summer and reduce windspeeds.	Low
Biodiversity	The fruit trees and seeds are a food source for garden birds and will provide limited nesting habitat. The biodiversity value of the grass is low.	Low

15.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Invergowrie Park increases the desirability of the village as a pleasant place to live and work.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Creating a community orchard will support the community plan by providing a sustainable source of local food that the community, especially the children from the school, will have ownership of. In addition maintaining a high quality amenity green space will give local residents an opportunity to lead active lives.

15.5 Silvicultural Policy

Continue programme of tree safety surveys and remove any dead or dying trees that pose a threat to the safety of park users. A small area should be planted as a community orchard (around nine trees) and any dead or dying trees that are removed should be replaced by orchard trees as directed by the Carse of Gowrie Orchard Project.

Felling and Thinning

No felling or thinning is planned.

Restructuring and New Planting

Any trees that are removed for health and safety reasons should be replaced with orchard trees (apples and pears). The variety of apples and pears should be chosen by the Carse of Gowrie Orchard Project so they are suitable for the local climatic conditions. If possible, the school children could get involved in planting them.

Protection and Maintenance

A simple wooden rail fence should be put around the new orchard trees and the paths within the park should be checked periodically**.**

Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

There is no problem with invasive plants at present and due to the lack of 'wild' areas within the park it is doubtful plants such as Himalayan Balsam will get the opportunity to take hold within the park.

15.6 Work Plan

Activity	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024 - 2034**
Plant a small area as a community orchard.											
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work											

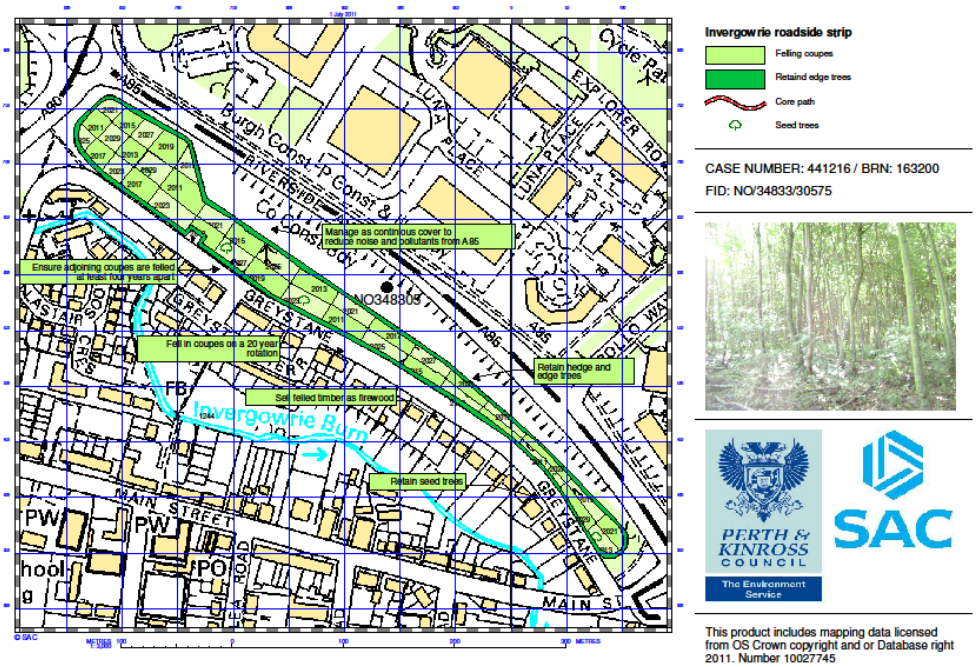
required.											

15.7 Production Forecast

Not applicable.

16 Invergowrie Roadside Strip

16.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council and private ownership. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

This 2.35 ha woodland is located at the north eastern boundary of Invergowrie alongside the duel carriageway A90. The wood is a thin strip 650 m long and 70 m wide at its widest and surrounded by a 1.3 m Beech hedge. The population of Invergowrie is 1,600 and neighbouring Dundee around 142,000.

Altitude

The site is 10 m above sea level

Soils

The soils are Carpow/Panbridge brown forest soils.

Perth and Kinross Council Forest Plan 2015 – 2035

History

The wood was planted as a screen for the houses at Greystanes and formally adopted by the Council.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 18th June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is to manage the woodland within a short rotation, continuous cover forestry regime.

Management Objectives

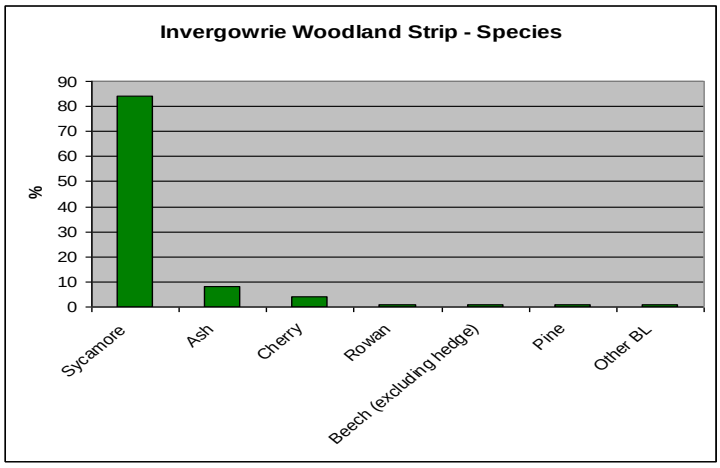
1) To put in place a sustainable harvesting regime that removes around 30 trees every two years.
2) For natural regeneration to replace the felled trees.

Site and Species Description

The woodland is dominated by semi-mature sycamore and ash, with cherry trees and a beech hedge around the perimeter. The trees are semi-mature and are planted in rows, with a survival rate of around 60%.

Figure 5: The Hedge and Edge Trees at Invergowrie Roadside Strip

Stand Data



Woodland Type	Species and Woodland type	Area (ha)	Yield Class	Percentage	P year

Woodland Type	Species and Woodland type	Area (ha)	Yield Class	Percentage	P year
Mixed broadleaved woodland	Sycamore, ash, cherry	2.35	6	100%	c.1990

Survey Data

No surveys have been carried out on site

16.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Landscape

The woodland is prominent in the landscape and therefore the felling will be very small scale and will not have any significant visual impact. The region comes under the 'Firth Lowlands' area of the Landscape Character Assessment, although woodlands within this area are not discussed within an urban environment.

Archaeological

There are no archaeological designations in or near the woodland.

Ecological

The proposed operations will not impact on the ecology; indeed the proposed felling coupes will increase the biodiversity opportunities. All proposed operations will take place outwith sensitive periods, specifically the bird nesting season.

Herbivore

There was no evidence of deer damage and this will help the success of the natural regeneration. We did not see any rabbit damage, although this will have to be monitored.

Social

The woodland plays a large role in defining and enhancing the local area. It benefits the visual appearance of the area as well as reducing noise levels from the dual carriageway.

Public Access

There is no public access onto this site, and it is actually quite difficult to get access although there was a small amount of litter and an old mattress, suggesting that people are getting in. In order to encourage the natural regeneration this no access policy should remain. The wood is not connected to the Core Path network, the nearest of which runs to

the back of Greystanes. The adoption of the proposed woodland management regime will not have a negative impact on the public access.

16.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	Growth rates and the rate of carbon uptake are highest in the first twenty to twenty five years and therefore felling the trees at this age will create a forest that is sequestering carbon at the maximum possible rate. Using the wood locally will reduce the need for transport, and if the wood is used as firewood, this will replace the need for fossil fuels.	High
Timber	This will set a precedent for managing roadside/screening planting and will bring under management other woodlands, which will in turn increase the supply of wood into the timber industry. Initially the poorer stems will be removed, leaving the better trees (5%) as seed trees. These will be retained until maturity and could be used by craftsmen to make furniture/for wood turning. Also, by selling the timber in the local area the Council will be reducing the number of timber miles.	Medium
Business development	The amount of timber that will be removed as firewood will be on too small a scale to put out as a standing sale. Local contractors can be used to fell the trees and sell the timber and this will support local businesses.	Low
Community development	Due to the location and size of the woodland there is little scope for formal community involvement. An interpretation board could be erected to describe the woodland management that is taking place. There are no formal community user groups.	Low
Access and health	The access to the site is poor due to the surrounding beech hedge. The management of the site will require successful regeneration and therefore the access should remain restricted.	Low
Environmental quality	The woodlands strip reduces noise pollution from the main road, traps harmful dust particles and absorbs gases such as sulphur dioxide. It will be managed as a continuous cover regime, ensuring that these benefits	High

Theme	Aims	Priority
	are maintained.	
Biodiversity	The wood is within 50 m of other urban woodlands, however, a dual carriageway runs between them and this decreases the habitat network value of the strip. Sycamore is not a native tree, however, it has been shown to support more species per hectare than mixed woodlands, although not as many as pure ash or oak woodlands. However, it is an excellent tree for regeneration, especially in closed, or semi-closed canopies and therefore will work well with the specified silvicultural regime.	Medium

16.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The management proposals contained within this Plan will support the vision of a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive economy by providing employment for local contractors. It will also indirectly increase support for new transport links by creating an attractive roadside feature that could be replicated elsewhere and it is also an attractive landscape feature that provides greenery in an otherwise urban area.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Of the three aims set out in the Community Plan, the management of the Invergowrie roadside strip will help achieve *'a vibrant and successful area'* by improving the image of the local area and by creating a sustainable natural and built environment.

The national outcome of *'we live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need'* is supported by bringing under management this woodland which is an important landscape feature within a predominantly urban environment.

16.5 Silvicultural Policy

The overriding silvicultural policy is of short rotation forestry (SRF). SRF uses fast growing species, felled when the growth rates decreases, usually around 15 to 20 years old. This is usually undertaken on a clearfell regime, however, the landscape and environmental quality constraints on this site means that a continuous cover regime (CCF) will be adopted. Therefore the management regime will be a combination of SRF and CCF.

Felling and Thinning

Thinning will be undertaken every two years in groups of around 30 trees (0.02 ha). The trees will be felled and cut up for fire wood, with the branches stacked and left under the canopy of adjoining trees. The felling will take place out with the nesting season.

Restructuring and New Planting

Areas that have been felled will be left to naturally regenerate. If, after four years, there is not a healthy crop coming through, planting will be considered.

Management of Open Areas

There are no open areas within the woodland. The grassy areas surrounding the woodland (not within the Forest Plan area) will be maintained and cut.

Protection and Maintenance

There are no official access points into the woodland. The condition of all fences will be monitored and maintained.

Herbivore Impact

There is no evidence of deer in the woodland and it is not expected that deer browsing will hinder natural regeneration.

16.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2025
Marking and felling coupes of 30 trees.											Every two years
Monitoring the regeneration in previously felled coupes.											

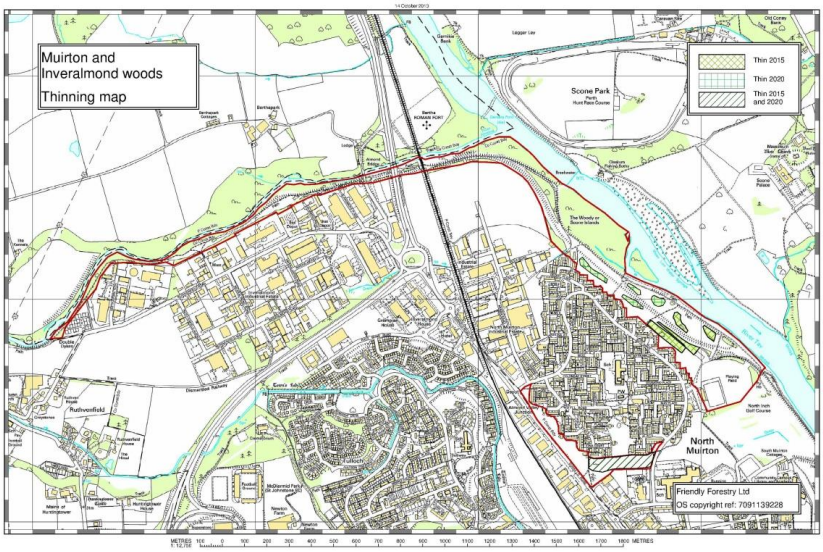
16.7 Production Forecast

Year	Sycamore
2013	0
2014	8 m^3

Year	Sycamore
2015	0
2016	8 m^3
2017	0
2018	8 m^3
2019	0
2020	8 m^3
2021	0
2022	8 m^3
2023	0

17 Muirton and Inveralmond Woods

17.1 Location and Background



Property

The sites are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Both sites are close to dense residential areas. The Inveralmond Woods and open space cover 41 ha and run along the west bank of the River Tay and the south bank of the River Almond. Muirton woods are located between Dunkeld Road and Muirton and they cover 4.8 ha.

Altitude

Muirton is 20 to 30 m above sea level and Inveralmond is 10 to 20m above sea level**.**

Soils

The soils are mainly alluvial deposits with some forest soils at Muirton.

History

The parks and tree planting immediately to the east were created alongside the building in the 1970s.

Community Interest

The woods are well used by local residents, although aside from teenagers and school children loitering in the woods at Muirton, these woods are generally used as a cut through to get to Dunkeld Road or beyond. Inveralmond Woods are well used by dog walkers and cyclists, although the southern section of the site is used more than the mature woods in the north.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. Three responses were received and all three supported the management proposals. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for both areas to provide opportunities for local residents to get closer to nature and to provide habitats for wildlife.

Management Objectives

Muirton Woods

Selectively fell some of the spruce to allow in more light to help some ground flora develop.

1) Cut up the felled trees and leave in-situ to provide 'natural play' equipment.
2) Undertake regular litter picking on the site.
3) Continue to leave wildflower areas in the grass.

Inveralmond Woods

1) Improve the small larch plantation by cutting back some of the understory and removing some regeneration.
2) Plant some horse chestnuts to provide future generations of children with a nearby supply of conkers.
3) Thin the planted areas of trees by taking out 30% of the stand, favouring the non-native species for removal. The older blocks should be thinned in 2014/2015 with the younger blocks thinned in 2019/2020.

Site and Species Descriptions

Muirton Woods is predominantly mature spruce (both Norway spruce and Sitka spruce) in the eastern section, and a mixed woodland with open space in the western section that runs along Dunkeld Road. In the area with the spruce there is sparse ground vegetation and sub species include sycamore, cherry and poplar. This area is well used by local residents and school children and there is a lot of litter on site. Whilst the spruce is mature there is

enough light getting in to prevent it from feeling overbearing, and some small patches of elder and hawthorn are present.

Inveralmond is predominantly open space in the southern end with planted groups of trees, from a quarter to a half an acre in size. The tree species in these planted areas are mixed broadleaves that include birch, oak, alder, willow, poplars, cherry, beech, sycamore and willow. In addition, there is a small area of larch at the back of Bute Drive and this has sycamore and beech as well as some elder and hawthorn. To the north of the site are mature native woodland areas, with open areas along the path that leads behind the bus depot.

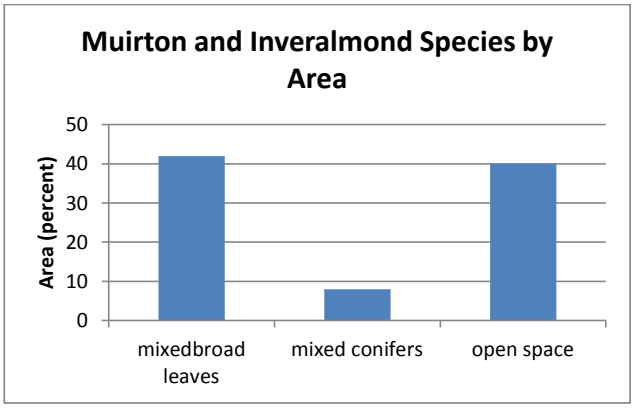
Figure 6: The Spruce at Muirton

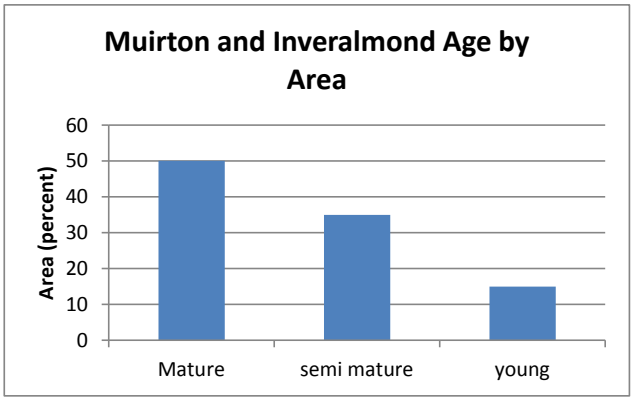
Figure 7: The Wild Flower Areas at Muirton

Figure 8: Young Planted Area at Inveralmond

Figure 9: The Larch Block at Inveralmond

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

17.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

Aside from the recorded find of a barbed and tanged arrowhead in the south east of the Inveralmond site, there are no Scheduled Monuments within the sites. The bridge over the Almond is listed as is the viaduct, however, the woodland management will not have any impact on these.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the sites. The woodlands in the north of Inveralmond form part of the native woodland core area.

Landscape

There are no landscape designations on the site, however, the designed landscape of Scone Palace can be clearly seen from the footpaths of Inveralmond. Therefore the views to the river and across to the opposite bank will be maintained and any natural regeneration that threatens to block the views will be removed.

Herbivore

There are rabbits, deer and squirrels in Inveralmond and evidence of squirrels and rabbits in Muirton Woods.

Social

There is a problem with dog faeces being left at both sites and there is a lot of litter within Muirton Woods. There is also some litter left in the larch plantation at Inveralmond.

Public Access

There is public access throughout both sites, although the blocks of planted woodlands in Inveralmond are fenced and unsuitable for public access.

17.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	Climate change will cause an increased risk of flooding due to increased frequency of extreme weather conditions and the severity of flooding can be reduced by reduced run off rates and increased infiltration. Trees, forests and green spaces within urban areas reduce run off and are therefore essential in catchment wide flood alleviation.	Low
Timber	The timber quality of the spruce trees at Muirton is good quality; however, the trees that are removed will be felled to provide natural play structures.	Low
Business development	Contractors from the local area may be used for any tree felling or works required to the woodlands and green spaces.	Low
Community development	Informal woodland areas may not immediately be viewed as important for community development. However, 'natural' spaces for children, teenagers and young people to meet and 'lark about' are essential for social development and mental health.	Medium
Access and health	The woodlands and green spaces of Inveralmond are excellent for exercise and enjoying the outdoors. There are over 5 km of paths throughout Inveralmond and along the Almond River and the paths through the woods offer a short cut that may encourage people to walk rather than drive/catch the bus.	Medium
Environmental quality	The woodland areas offer shade in the summer and they can also slightly increase temperatures in the winter (when compared to open areas).	Medium
Biodiversity	The native woodlands to the north of Inveralmond support wildlife and native plant species, and the trees at Muirton,	Medium

Theme	Aims	Priority
	whilst not high in biodiversity value, will offer habitats for some insects, bats and some birds.	

17.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Two aims of the corporate plan *'Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives and giving every child the best start in life'* are supported by the plan as the sites provide the opportunity for outdoor exercise and for investigating the natural world in a safe environment.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The informal meeting place at Muirton Woods, whilst seen by some as a nuisance, is actually a place for children and young adults to meet up outside and develop social skills.

17.5 Silvicultural Policy

To manage the woodlands as continuous cover and increase their use by the local community.

Felling and Thinning

Ten per cent of the spruce trees at Muirton should be removed to let in more light. Smaller trees within the wood should be taken out (rather than large trees or edge trees) as this will reduce the risk of windblow. The stems should be cut into large sections (around 1 m in length) and left lying on the ground. A slice should be cut off the top to make it flat for sitting/walking on and they should be left in place. The branches should be chipped.

The blocks of planted trees in Inveralmond should be thinned out by 30%. Non-native species should be taken out in preference to the native species and the felled trees can be cut up and left on site. The older blocks should be thinned in 2014/2015 and the younger blocks thinned in 2019/2020.

In addition, some regeneration and some of the understory should be cleared out of the Larch block at Inveralmod. This 'clearing' should be undertaken twice within the 10 years of the first stage of the Plan and it will give the wood a more open feel that would attract more people.

Restructuring and New Planting

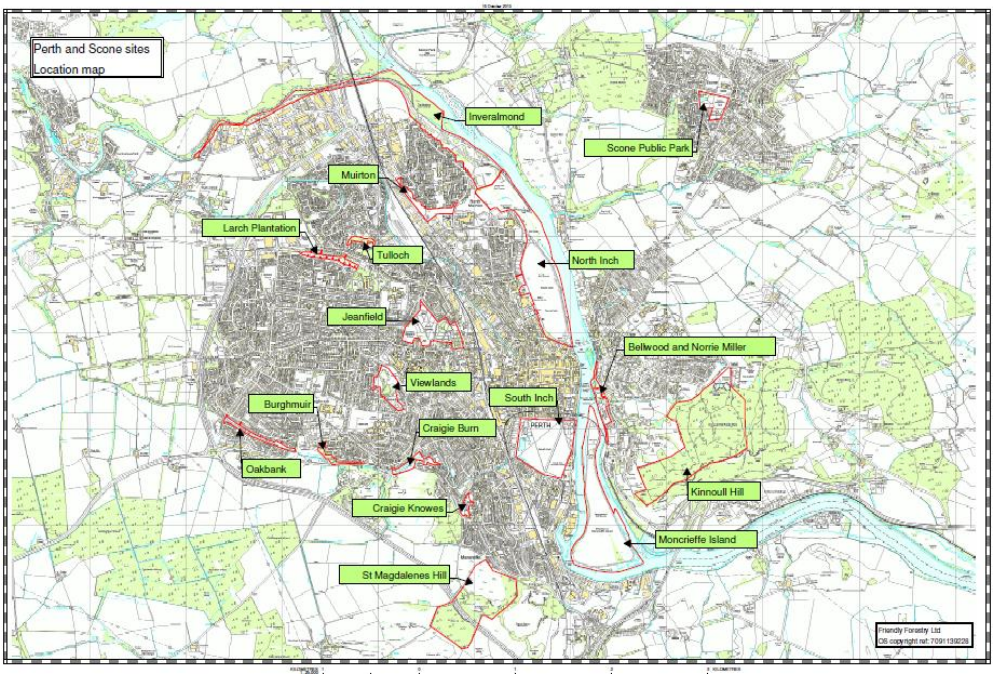
No new planting is required and due to the high level of use within Muirton Woods, any new planting may be damaged, therefore an understory/ground flora should be left to develop naturally in the gaps created.

17.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										
Thinning of Inveralmond planted areas.										
Thinning of spruce at Muirton.										

18 Bellwood and Norie-Miller Parks

18.1 Location and Background



Property

Bellwood is leased by the Council from Gannochy Estate. Norie-Miller Park is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The park covers an area of 4.72 ha and it stretches along the eastern bank of The Tay from the railway/footbridge in the south to Riverside in the north. The Parks straddle the A93 and there are a couple of footpaths that cross underneath the road.

Altitude

The site is between 10 and 20 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are alluvial deposits.

History

Norrie Miller Park was created to honour Sir Stanley Norie-Miller, Chairman of the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Association and was handed to the Council in 1971. Bellwood Park is also known as Rodney Gardens as it was the gardens to Rodney Pavilion (which is now a fitness centre).

Community Interest

The Parks are very well used both as a thoroughfare and as a destination in themselves. There are also a number of sculptures which add to the interest of the Parks and the different features of the Parks mean they are attractive for most of the year. The heather collection at Bellwood has been created by the working partnership of the Council and Beautiful Perth.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

Continue to manage as an ornamental woodland garden with well-maintained beds and grass areas.

Management Objectives

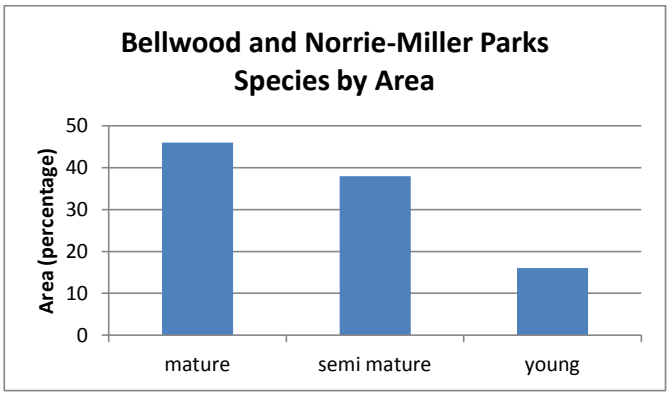
1) Continue to manage as a high quality parkland garden to the existing high standard.
2) Replace any dead or dying trees with other exotic species.
3) Treat Japanese knotweed with herbicide.

Site and Species Descriptions

The Parks are well maintained with detailed landscaping and attractive flowerbeds along with ponds and interlocking footpaths. The grass is kept short and tidy and the trees are well maintained with almost no deadwood. Most of the trees are ornamental and exotic and they include the tulip tree, red oak, horse chestnut and a fig as well as more common species such as beech and white beam. There is a lot of willow and alder along the banks along with a few sycamores. There is also Japanese knotweed that will require to be treated.

Figure 10: Bellwood Park

Stand Data



Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

18.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

Kinnoull Churchyard/Graveyard is a Listed Building and Scheduled Monument and it is located within Bellwood Park.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site.

Herbivore

Aside from rabbits and squirrels there are no other issues with herbivores.

Social

The Parks are well used and are visited by local residents and tourists alike. The grass areas are used for informal ball games by children and families often feed the ducks in the ponds.

Public Access

There is public access across the sites and the main north-south path is a designated Core Path.

18.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	As well as connecting the Queens Bridge with the Railway Bridge the Parks are also used to link the Barnhaill area to the city centre, thus reducing the use of cars. In addition, the use of a mix of exotic species may mean that the Parks would be unscathed should there be any catastrophic trees diseases on our native trees.	Low
Timber	No timber will be produced on site.	Low
Business development	The park is very attractive and anyone thinking of setting up a business in Perth may enjoy the setting and be swayed to move here.	Low
Community development	There is little scope for community development work due the skilled nature of the maintenance work required on the park.	Low
Access and health	Most of the paths that crisscross the park are suitable for all users and can be used by wheelchairs, people pushing prams, cyclists and scooters.	Medium
Environmental quality	The park can act as a natural flood defence and the trees intercept pollution and provide shade.	Medium
Biodiversity	The open nature of the park and the manicured grass areas and flower beds will not support a wide range of wildlife.	Low

18.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Council Forest Plan 2015 – 2035

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The Parks provide an attractive local setting for residents to relax and unwind after work, to undertake physical activity and to spend time outside with family and friends. All these activities are supported in the Corporate Plan.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

It is important to have variety and places of interest for all sections of society. Parks such as this tend to be enjoyed more by older generations compared to other wilder woodland areas. Therefore the aims of the Community Plan are supported by providing different 'natural' areas within the city to cater for all tastes. In addition, the open feel of the Parks makes them feel very safe and this may encourage people to enjoy it who otherwise feel intimidated in other natural settings.

18.5 Silvicultural Policy

To manage the trees as amenity trees within the Parks and keep the same level of tree cover.

Felling and Thinning

Unless trees are removed for health and safety reasons, no felling will be under taken.

Restructuring and New Planting

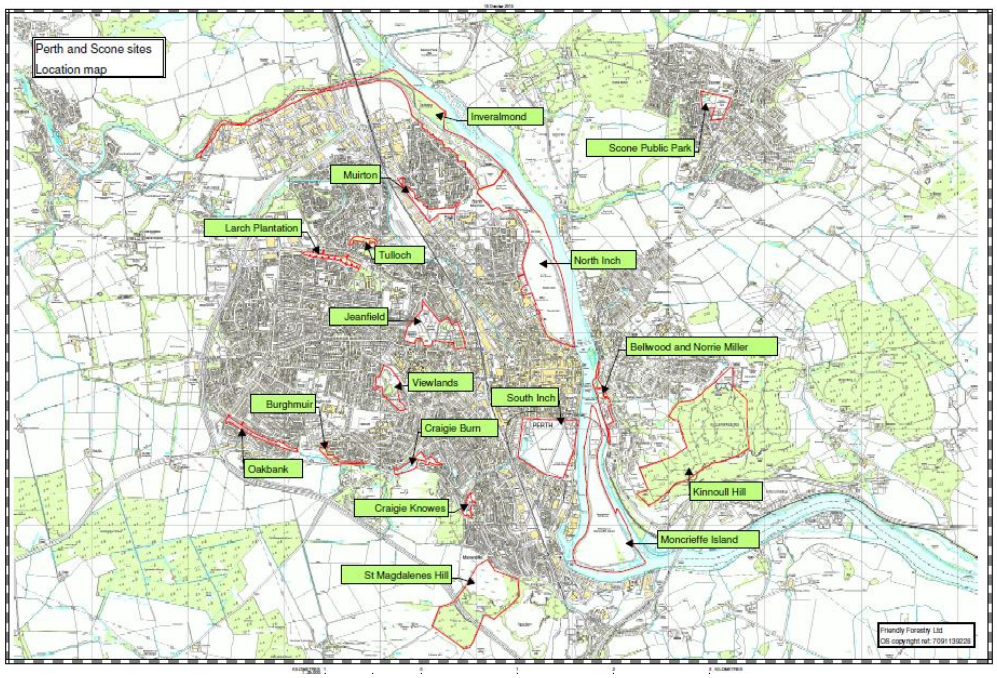
No restructuring or new planting will take place.

18.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

19 Craigie Woods, Perth

19.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The two blocks of woodland and open green space are located in the south of the City of Perth, adjacent to Craigie Hill Golf Club. The ownership at Craigie Burn covers an area of 3.2 ha and the ownership at Craigie Knowes is 1.63 ha.

Altitude

The altitude of Craigie Burn ranges from 30m above sea level to around 50 m (on the north bank) and the highest point in Craigie Knowes is 59 m above sea level.

Soils

Freely draining Darlith soils.

History

William Souter, a famous poet from Perth, wrote a poem entitled 'Craigie Knowes' and the area was an open space the residents of Perth enjoyed walking on as far back as the 1890s.

Community Interest

There is a lot of use of the footpaths at both sites, and an informal desire line is in use along the southern burn side at Craigie Burn.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

For high quality urban woodlands that provide an attractive natural setting for users.

Management Objectives

1) To allow the north bank of Craigie Burn to develop naturally. In some areas this will be as an alder carr woodland, in other areas, especially the higher areas, this will be as a mixed woodland.
2) To monitor the condition of the new fruit trees planted on the south bank of Craigie Burn and replace if necessary.
3) Allow the woodland at Craigie Knowes to continue to develop naturally with little intervention.
4) Open up the water's edge at Craigie Burn and make the burn more of a feature.

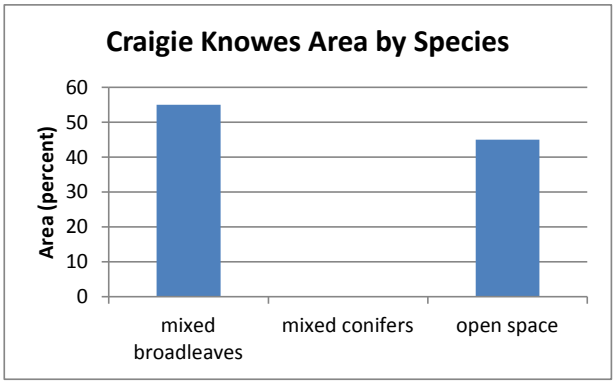
Site and Species Descriptions

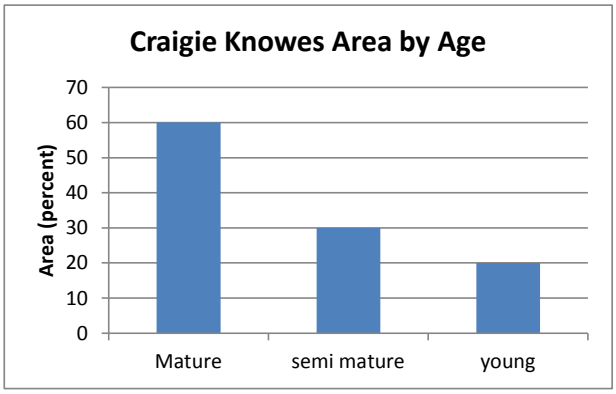
Originally, the woodland at Craigie Burn would have been an oak/ash woodland, however, it is now a mixed woodland containing beech, birch, oak, ask, cherry and a healthy hawthorn understory. There is a small area of alder carr woodland on the north bank and further to the east, a small area of poplars. The woodland block in the east also contains sycamore.

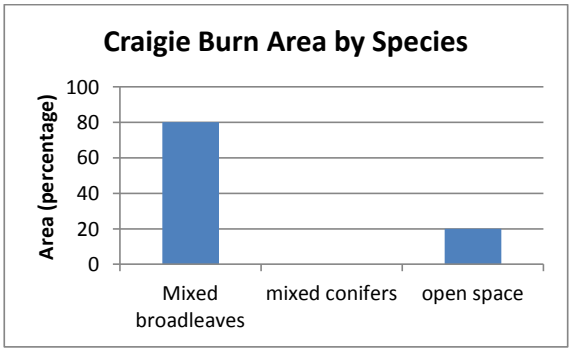
Most of the trees are mature or semi mature, however, there is fairly healthy regeneration.

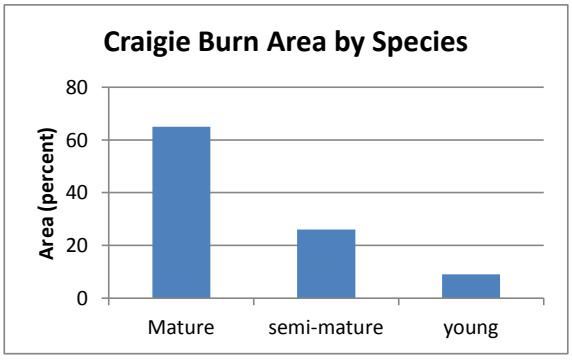
Craigie Knowes is a 'craggy plug of igneous rock' with a mixed broadleaved woodland developing with a mixed age class with areas of open space interspersed with the trees. There is a good level of understory including hawthorn and elder.

Stand Data


Craigie Knowes Area by Species
Area (percent)
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
mixed broadleaves
mixed conifers
open space


Craigie Knowes Area by Age
Area (percent)
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Mature
semi mature
young


Craigie Burn Area by Species
Area (percentage)
100
80
60
40
20
0
Mixed broadleaves
mixed conifers
open space


Craigie Burn Area by Species
Area (percent)
80
60
40
20
0
Mature
semi-mature
young

Survey Data

No surveys have been under taken on site.

19.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There is a former quarry on Craigie Knowes and the possible remains of the Tower of Ross of Craigie. There is also a site record for a quarry in the south west of the Craigie Burn site.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the sites, nor are either of them ancient woodland or within the native woodland core areas. However, both sites provide an important habitat for urban wildlife.

Herbivore

There is evidence of rabbits, voles and squirrels.

Social

The formal and informal footpaths are well used in both sites and there is a small amount of litter left on site.

Public Access

There is public access across both sites.

19.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The woodlands themselves will have little impact on climate change, however, the pleasant paths will encourage people to cycle and walk rather than drive, and the woodlands have carbon locked up in the soils and the timber.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The woodlands and path networks contribute to making Perth a pleasant place to live and work. The woods in Craigie Burn also provide a pleasant backdrop to the golf course.	Low
Community development	Paths that connect residential areas are	Medium

Theme	Aims	Priority
	key to fostering a sense of connectedness within communities and there is scope for community groups to volunteer at the sites, with jobs such as litter picking or clearing back some of the undergrowth along the burn.	
Access and health	The paths provide users with the opportunity of exercising outside and integrating walking/cycling into their daily routine.	Medium
Environmental quality	The trees and woods will intercept run off and particulate matter in the atmosphere. The sites also provide shady paths on hot summer days and the path at Craigie burn is partly protected from extreme bad weather.	Medium
Biodiversity	The woodlands, and especially the native trees and shrubs, provide valuable habitats for urban wildlife.	Medium

19.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

One of the strategic objectives of the Corporate Plan is to create safe and sustainable places for future generations. This can be achieved by enhancing urban woodland areas so that they are pleasant places to visit for all generations.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Walkers of all ages, dog walkers, cyclists and school children all use the paths and these natural settings are often one of the few outdoor places that different sections of society can be together enjoying the same space.

19.5 Silvicultural Policy

The overriding policy is for low intervention, continuous cover forestry.

Felling and Thinning

There will be no felling undertaken as the woodlands are generally developing well with a good mix of species and age classes. The stream should be opened up with undergrowth cleared and some small trees cut back to let more light to the water.

Restructuring and New Planting

There are a few areas that have potential to be planted, including the north bank of Craigie Burn and some areas of Craigie Knowes, however, both sites benefit from a significant amount of open ground and new planting is not required.

Control of Invasive Non-native Species

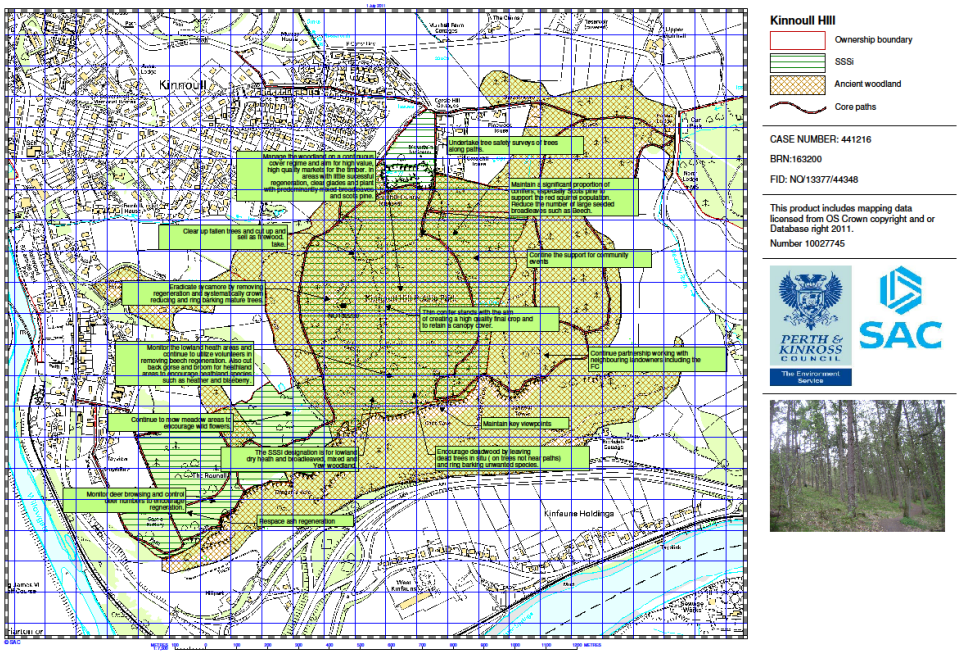
Any invasive and aggressive exotic species will be sprayed with herbicide.

19.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and monitoring for exotic plant species.										
Clear alongside the burn at Craigie Burn.										

20 Kinnoull Hill

20.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council and the Forestry Commission. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Kinnoull Hill is a hill located to the east of Perth, just over 1 km from the west bank of the Tay. The Kinnoull Hill woodland covers an area of 305.4 ha, with Perth and Kinross Council owning 76.2 ha and Forestry Commission Scotland owning the remaining 229.2 ha. The Perth and Kinross area is to the west of the hill, nearest to the city.

Altitude

The summit of the hill reaches 222 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Sourhope – freely draining brown forest soils.

History

The hill is clearly wooded on the 1783 military survey map and is listed in the Inventory of Ancient Woodland as being *'long established of plantation origin'*. Most of the woodland was felled in the 1914 to 1918 war and heath developed in the open areas. Subsequently, natural regeneration of woodland occurred on some open areas and this process continues today. Trees were also planted in stands of pure conifer and mixed broadleaved woodland.

Community Interest

There is a high level of community interest in the site specifically through the Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park Group.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. Three people responded along with the Kinnoull Woodland Park Group. The main points raised from the scoping process were:

1) Mature sycamore should not be felled/ring barked.
2) Views need to be maintained.
3) Conflict between mountain bikers and walkers should be addressed.
4) Deer should not be culled.

The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The vision is for a native woodland managed under a continuous cover regime that enhances the experience of users of the park by creating a '*managed wilderness'*.

Management Objectives

1) Manage the wood as a continuous cover woodland.
2) Protect the natural regeneration of oak and birch by controlling deer numbers.
3) Remove natural regeneration of non-native tree species, especially sycamore and beech.
4) Maintain the meadow areas and remove any seedlings.
5) Ensure Scots pine numbers are maintained to support the red squirrel populations.
6) Work towards heath land restoration in the heath land areas by removing regeneration and shrubs such as broom and gorse.
7) Remove trees that obstruct the view for key viewpoints.
8) Retain as much deadwood as possible.
9) Manage the key features for which the SSSI is notified, particularly the oak and birch woodland.
10) Undertake tree safety surveys along paths.

Site and Species Descriptions

The woodland has a varied age structure, ranging from single mature grand oaks to carpets of beech seedlings. There are no clear compartments; instead broadleaved woodland dominated by oak, birch and beech covers most the site, with pockets of conifers and heathland distributed throughout. Other species include ash, hazel and hawthorn. The oak tends to be mature, with only a few semi-mature pockets of regeneration. The birch has more regeneration and the beech regeneration is prolific, although a lot is browsed by deer. There are areas where Scots pine makes up most of the tree cover, especially towards the north and east and previous planting and regeneration has ensured a pine understory. In other areas there is no pine at all and beech is taking over. The understory is varied, most is beech and birch regeneration, with some pockets of holly and hawthorn.

Close to the summit, and on the northern side of the hill, are a number of linked open heathland areas with heather, bell heather and blaeberry. Gorse and broom are prolific in these areas, especially near the summit and along with the woodland encroachment, the heathland is under threat.

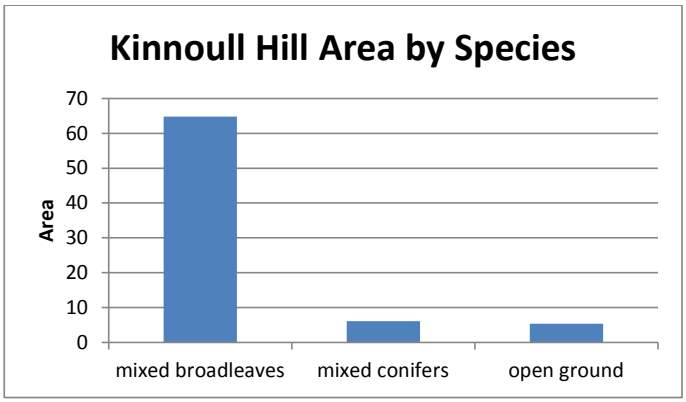
Figure 11: Multiuse Path at Kinnoull Hill

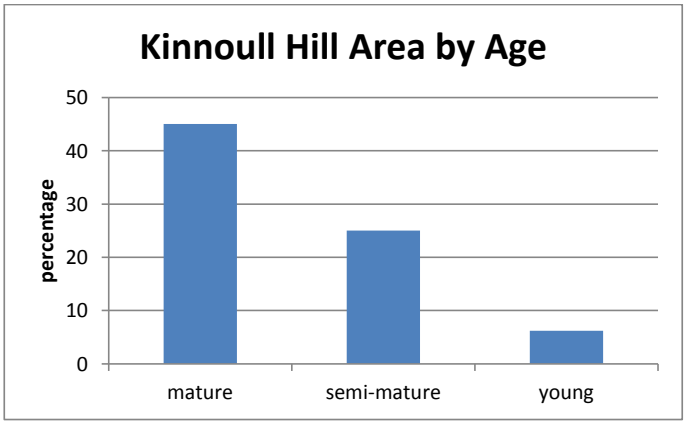
Figure 12: Ash and Beech Regeneration

Figure 13: Area of Douglas Fir

Figure 13: Wildlife in the Deadwood

Stand Data


Kinnoull Hill Area by Species
Area
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
mixed broadleaves
mixed conifers
open ground


Kinnoull Hill Area by Age
percentage
50
40
30
20
10
0
mature
semi-mature
young

Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

20.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are a number of archaeological findings and sites within Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park. A gouge, leaf arrowhead and scraper have been found on the site, as well as the Category B listed Kinnoull Tower. There is also a possible settlement and apparent platform listed as having archaeological interest.

Ecological

A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation covers 68.3 ha of the site and is notified for its botanical and geological interest with the following key features:

- Upland oak woodlands.
- Spectacular inland andesite cliffs which have exceptionally varied flora.
- Igneous petrology exposed in Corsiehill quarry.

The oak and birch woodland, along with the open heathland are one of the few remaining sites in lowland Perthshire to have this ecosystem.

The woodland consists mainly of oak and birch. Close to the summit there are still remnant patches of open heathland with heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea* and blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtilus*. Succession by broom, gorse, hawthorn and rose has reduced this area, which in turn is being colonised by trees.

Herbivore

There are a significant number of deer in the park and they are browsing a lot of the saplings. There are also rabbits, hare, vole, mice and squirrels (both red and grey) and badgers. Some of the younger trees are stripped by hares.

Social

Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park users group was set up to respond to the rising tensions between users (walkers, cyclists and horse riders). The group holds four open meetings a year and also organises volunteer events such as tree planting and the Kinnoull Hill open day.

There is scope for volunteers to help with the key management proposals i.e. Removing non-native regeneration.

There are also a number of chainsaw sculptures that have been carved from dead wood and these are popular with visitors of all ages.

Public Access

There are over 5 km of paths that crisscross the site, of varying quality, from 'all user' paths suitable for wheel chairs and pushchairs to steep informal bike routes that only the bravest would attempt.

There is a high level of usage from both local people and visitors, for dog walking, hiking, mountain biking, jogging and horse riding. There are a number of key viewpoints that people head for, the most popular being Kinnoull Tower and the summit of Kinnoull Hill, with the viewfinder and stone slab.

There are formal events held in the park, such as geocaching and organised walks, to informal every day walks and bike rides.

There is some friction between walkers and mountain bikers, however, this is on a small scale and if it increases then consultations should be undertaken to support for dedicated bike trails similar to the FC run at Deuchny.

20.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The woodland and soils are a store of carbon and the woodland forms an important habitat linkage within the landscape which will aid species movement and displacement.	Low
Timber	There will not be any commercial scale felling of the woodland. Trees felled because they are dead or dangerous will be left as dead wood habitat on site.	Low
Business development	Kinnoull Hill increases the desirability of Perth as a place to live and work.	Low
Community development	A semi-wild site such as Kinnoull Hill adjacent to a city offers numerous opportunities for community development. These include school trips, organised club outings with groups such as the Scouts, groups of volunteers and informal meet ups and walking groups.	High
Access and health	The numerous paths that crisscross Kinnoull Hill offer excellent opportunities for getting out and enjoying the fresh air. All ability access, walking, cycling and	High

	horse riding can all be enjoyed at Kinnoull Hill.	
Environmental quality	The trees intercept rain and reduce run off as well as intercepting air borne pollutants.	Medium
Biodiversity	The woodland is a designated SSSI and also supports a large amount of wildlife including bats and locally important plant species.	High

20.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Of the five objectives set out in the corporate plan, objective two *'promoting healthy, caring communities'* is supported by this plan. Exercise can improve both physical and mental health, and by improving the provision of the all user access into the countryside from the car park, the aging population of Perth and Kinross can enjoy the benefits of getting out into woodlands.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The management proposals for Kinnoull Hill contribute to the outcomes of all three aims contained within the Community Plan. Firstly, the location of Kinnoull Hill next to Perth provides access to woodlands for everybody, and this can reduce inequalities between the affluent and disadvantaged resulting in a more inclusive community. Secondly, managing the woodland sustainably will create a substantial natural environment that supports a vibrant and successful area. Finally, providing an attractive and safe outdoor space will improve health and well-being which in turn will support the aim of nurtured and supported people.

20.5 Silvicultural Policy

The overriding principle is of continuous cover forestry, utilising the natural regeneration of oak and birch to gradually convert the woodland into a native woodland.

Felling and Thinning

The removal of dead or dangerous trees adjacent to paths will be undertaken. Natural regeneration of beech and sycamore will be removed and stumps that are resprouting should be sprayed.

In addition, there are areas where sycamore forms part of the understory, but the trees are not yet mature or reaching the canopy. In these areas the sycamore should be removed, as they will only take hold in the future and become more of a problem. Therefore there are three areas that should be totally cleared of sycamore in the first felling period (2015). In

the second felling period (2020), all young and semi-mature young sycamores should be removed, along with two to three mature trees. The felling map shows these areas.

Restructuring and New Planting

The priority of restructuring will be protecting the natural regeneration of the oak and birch. This will be achieved by controlling deer numbers. Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

Species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed will be regularly monitored and controlled if necessary.

20.6 Work Plan

Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2035
Removal of non-native regeneration (inc spraying stumps).											
Tree safety surveys.											
Path monitoring and maintenance.											
Removal of sycamore/beech particularly from coupes											

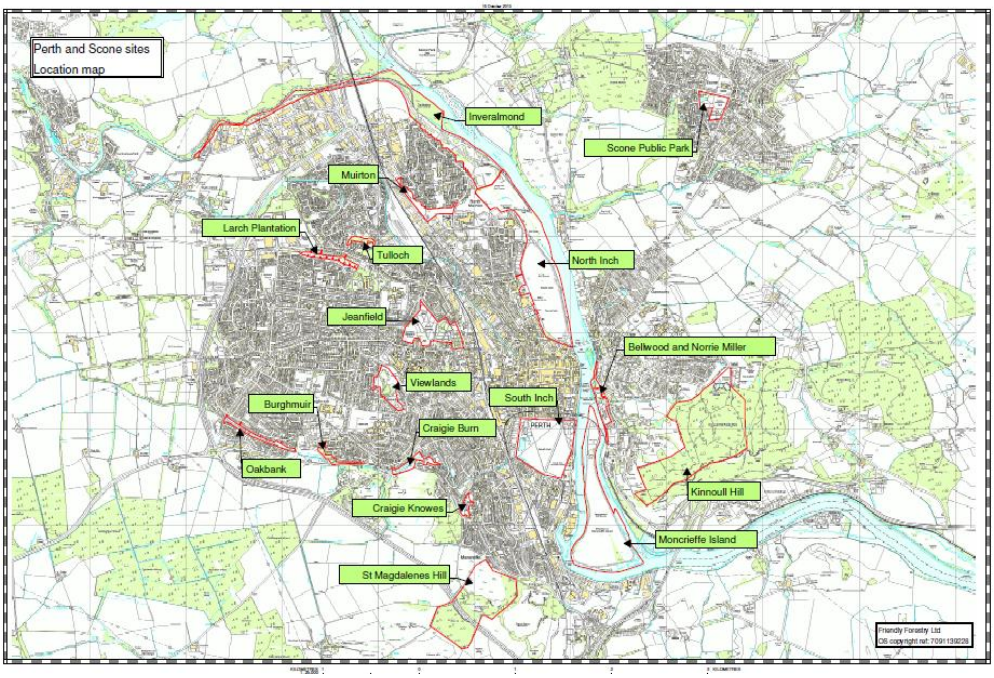
Activity	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 - 2035
1, 2 and 3.											
Removal of gorse and broom to improve heathland											

20.7 Production Forecast

Beech/Sycamore, Coupe 1 2015/17/19/21/23/25	Approx 15 m³ in total
Beech/Sycamore, Coupe 2 2015/17/19/21/23/25	Approx 30 m³ in total
Beech/Sycamore, Coupe 3 2015/17/19/21/23/25	Approx 30 m³ in total

21 Moncrieffe Island, Perth

21.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Moncrieffe Island covers an area of 49.23 ha. Most of the island is used as a golf course, with an allotment site taking up a further 1.6 ha. The island is accessible from the footbridge which runs alongside the railway line between Barnhill and Shore Road. There is also a causeway for vehicles at the top of the island that runs from the back of the Old Kinnoull Church although this is not used often and it is not for public use.

Altitude

The island is low lying – at a maximum of 10 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are alluvial deposits that have developed a shallow humus layer.

History

Moncrieffe House was built in 1679 and burned down in November 1957. The golf club moved to the Island in 1897.

Community Interest

Most visitors to the Island go to either use the allotments or the golf course and there are not many tourists who visit. The Island can be seen from both banks, as well as from the footbridge.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. One comment was made which supported all the management proposals. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

For the woodlands on the Island to enhance the existing land uses and provide valuable riparian habitat.

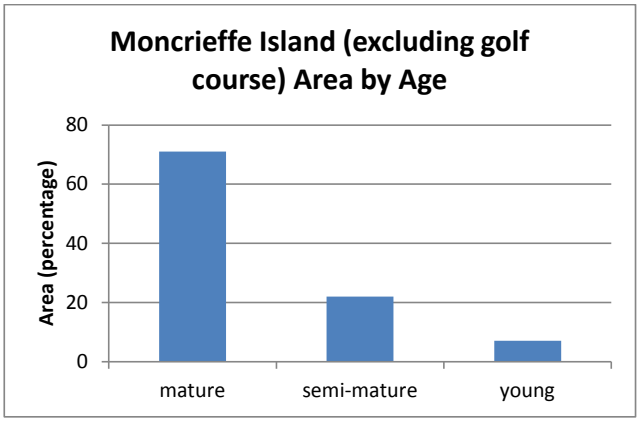
Management Objectives

1) Eradicate Himalayan Balsam.
2) Allow the woodland in the north to develop naturally with no intervention.
3) Undertake tree safety surveys on trees along the paths.

Site and Species Descriptions

The woodland on the Island is predominantly mixed broadleaves (except a couple of small conifer plantations on the golf course) and a few Scots Pine and larch. Broadleaved species include beech, oak, sycamore, horse chestnut, ash and lime along with willows and alder. Most of the woodland is in the north with riparian woodland along the banks. There is an area of mixed woodland in the far south east corner and trees are an integral part of the golf course.

Stand Data



Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

21.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

The golf course is listed as a Canmore record and there is a record of a craft of uncertain description being found on the island.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the island.

Social

Most visitors to the Island are going there to work on allotments or to play golf. There is a small amount of litter dropped in the woodland area and some informal use however, it is not causing damage.

Public Access

There is a footpath that runs around the allotments and access is welcome in the northern section, however,there are only informal paths/desire lines in the woodland area.

21.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	Locally grown food can reduce air/road miles and the fact that only pedestrians can get to the island will also reduce distances travelled by car.	Medium
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The golf course is a popular attraction and having a course like this so near to the city centre will add to the appeal of living and working in Perth.	Medium
Community development	Allotments are excellent at bringing people together and the slightly unusual location for the allotment site will also foster a sense of togetherness.	Medium
Access and health	Golf is a gentle exercise that can improve strength and stamina and gardening is also good for both physical and mental health.	Medium
Environmental quality	The Island is a natural geomorphological feature created by the change in currents and erosion from the sea level change in the last mini ice age. Therefore it is a method of self-regulation that can help with flood prevention.	Medium
Biodiversity	Most of the woodlands are undisturbed and the riparian woodlands will not only provide habitats for birds and land dwellers, it will also provide feeding areas for fish.	Medium

21.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan aim of supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives is fulfilled by providing an attractive woodland site incorporating a golf course and allotments for food production.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Undertaking physical activity can bring people together and having a semi-wild woodland area on an Island can help people 'separate' themselves from their daily lives/work and this can benefit mental health.

21.5 Silvicultural Policy

Low intervention continuous cover forestry and the woodland should be left to develop naturally. Only trees adjacent to footpaths should be removed if dead or dangerous and these should be replaced with fruit trees as the fruit will be used by the allotment users.

Felling and Thinning

No felling or thinning will be under taken.

Restructuring and New Planting

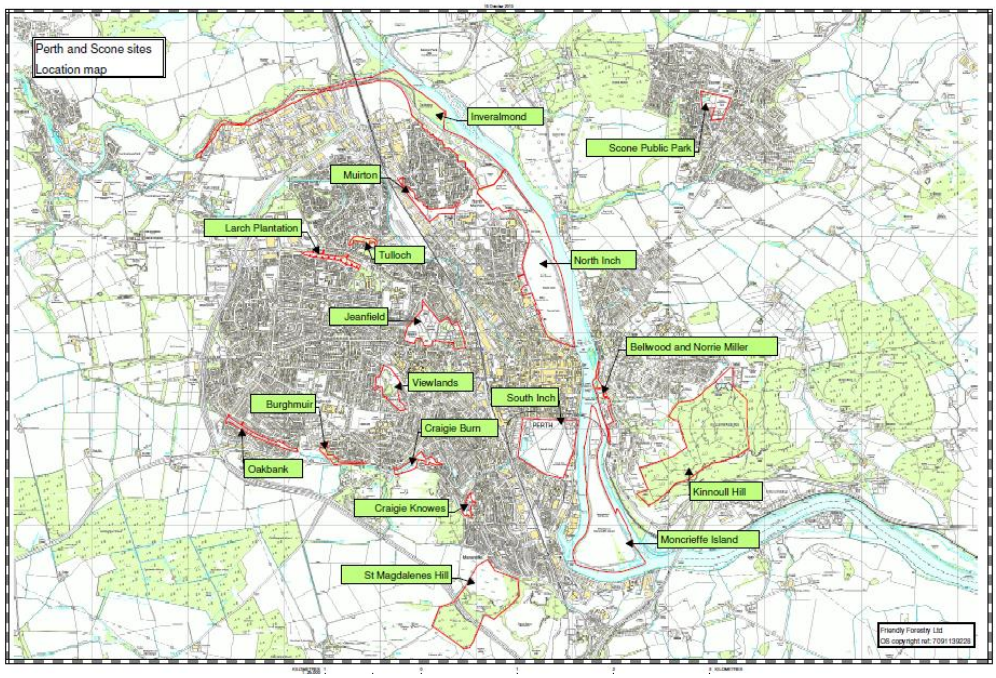
No restructuring and new planting will be done.

21.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Treatment of Himalayan Balsam.										
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

22 Oakbank and Burghmuir

22.1 Location and Background



Property

The sites are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The two woodlands are located in the south west of Perth. Oakbank woodland is approximately 300 m from Broxden roundabout and it covers an area of 2.94 ha. Burghmuir Woods are 1.8 ha and they are 200 m east of Oakbank Woods.

Altitude

Both sites are approximately 40 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Darlith brown forest soils.

History

The greenspace areas were created alongside the house building, although the right of way is evident on the 1930 OS maps.

Community Interest

The footpaths through both sites are well used and the gardens of over 60 houses back on to Oakbank.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

For an attractive woodland back drop to the well-used footpaths as well as providing habitats for urban wildlife.

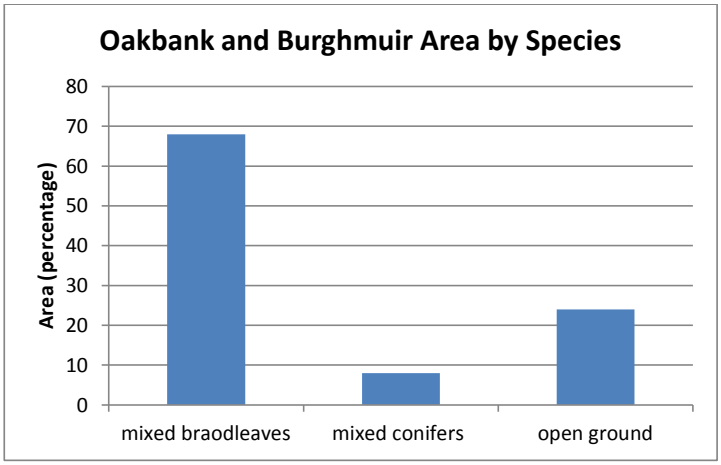
Management Objectives

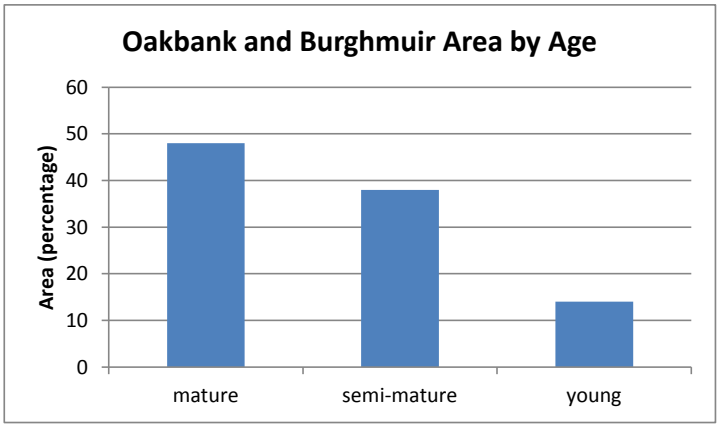
1) Maintain grassy areas to current standards.
2) Continue tree safety surveys.

Site and Species Descriptions

Mainly mixed broadleaves species including sycamore, rowan, ash and some beech as well as larch and pine.

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

22.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no archaeological designations on the sites.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the sites**.**

Herbivore

Aside from the usual minor damage by rabbits and squirrels there is no problem with herbivore damage.

Social

There is some litter dropped and minor damage to trees.

Public Access

The path that runs along Oakbank is a Core Path and there is a footpath in Burghmuir Woods.

22.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	The sites are around 25% open green space and therefore there is little scope for planting more trees to sequester	Low

	carbon. Green spaces play an important role in flood and catchment management and help towards the adaption to climate change.	
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The parks are an important feature in the local landscape that will attract people to live there.	Low
Community development	There is little scope for volunteer work within the woodlands.	Low
Access and health	Due to its proximity to residential areas the paths offer a pleasant local green space for gentle exercise and to refresh the mind.	Medium
Environmental quality	Green spaces within urban areas, such as Oakbank and Burghmuir, are essential in urban areas to increase rainfall infiltration to increase lag times and reduce flooding.	Medium
Biodiversity	As an urban woodland the corridor shape of Oakbank will have some benefits for wildlife, although it is too narrow to really be considered a true 'wildlife corridor'.	Low

22.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The footpaths are particularly well used by commuters going to south-east Perth; encouraging people out of their cars and onto their feet or bikes is central to many of the aims of the Corporate Plan.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The paths provide opportunities for informal community development.

22.5 Silvicultural Policy

The woodlands should be managed as continuous cover with only trees that pose a safety risk to the public removed.

Felling and Thinning

No felling of thinning will be undertaken.

Restructuring and New Planting

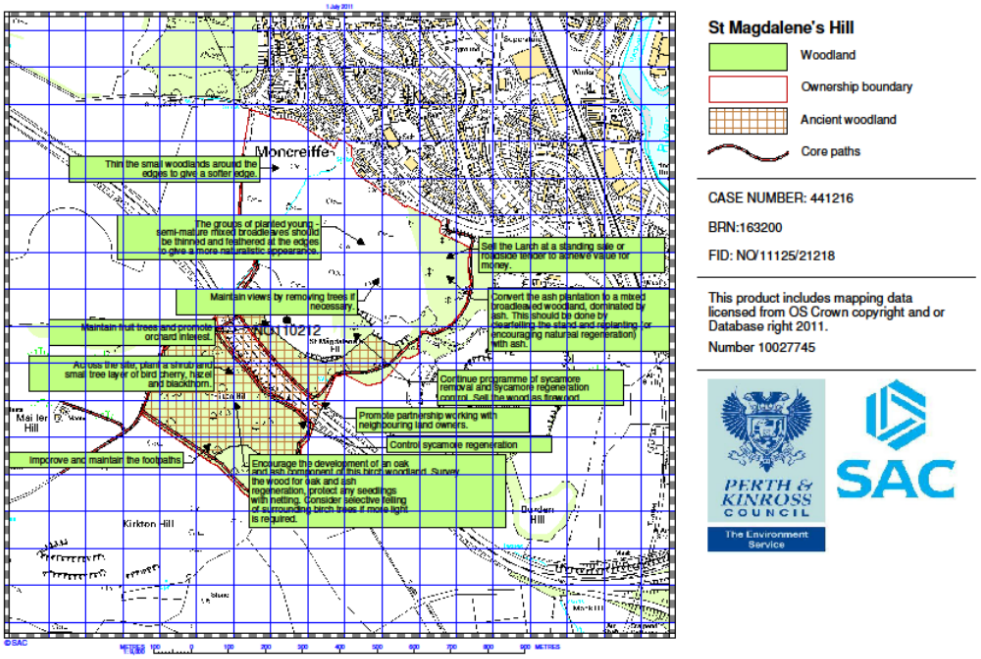
No restructuring or new planting will take place.

22.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

23 St Magdalene's Hill

23.1 Location and Background



Property

St Magdalene's Hill is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

St Magdalene's Hill covers an area of 44.2 ha and is located on the southwestern side of Perth – straddling the city bypass and abutting the city of Moncrieff. The area to the west of the bypass is known as Hilton Hill.

Altitude

At its highest point St Magdalene's reaches 154 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Darleith – a brown forest soil derived from basaltic lavas and basic intrusive rocks.

History

The wood is clearly shown on the 1783 military survey map and the site is continuously a woodland through to today, and is considered a *'long established woodland of plantation origin'* on the Inventory of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland. The tree cover reduced significantly from 1932 to 1959, probably due to war time felling. The Hill (and woodland) takes its name from St Mary Magdalene's hospital for the poor which was located near the site.

Community Interest

The site is well used and the open green space was previously used as a pitch and putt. Recent use has included orienteering and mountain boarding and the Scouts have previously undertaken voluntary work at Hilton Hill. There is also interest from the South Perth Green Spaces Group whose remit includes the site.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. Two responses were received about St Magdalene's Hill, of these the management proposals were supported except for the removal of the sycamore and the clear felling on the larch. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is to have a continuous cover native woodland of high value as a wildlife habitat as well as providing high quality recreation opportunities.

Management Objectives

To manage as a continuous cover woodland.

- Restoring areas of semi-natural woodland to a more natural composition and structure.
- Encourage development of a more varied structure in the planted woodlands.
- Manage meadows to improve their diversity.
- Undertake frequent tree inspections.

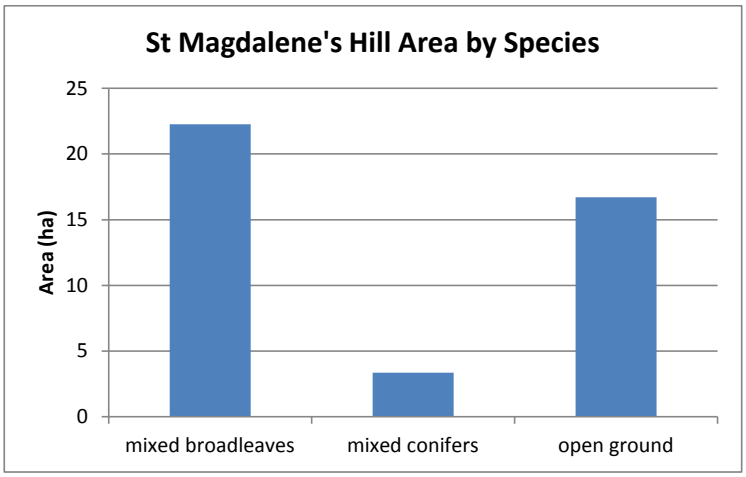
Site and Species Descriptions

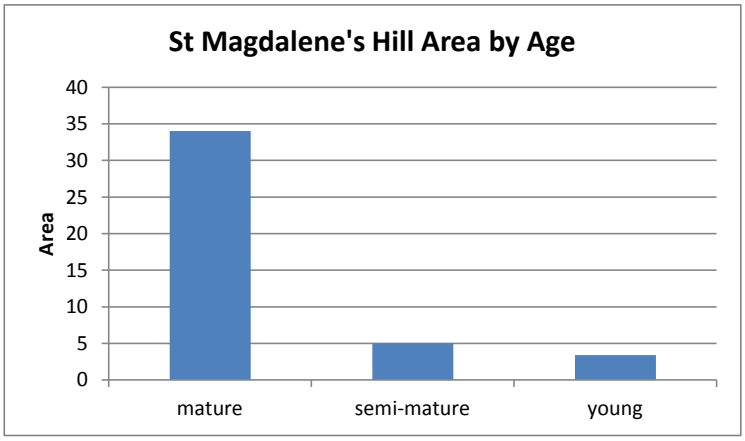
	Area (ha)	**Description**
Young planted groups	19.11	The majority of this compartment, around 9.5 ha, is open space. The woodland areas are in blocks dispersed through the open space, the block sizes varying from 0.05 ha to over 1 ha. The species are mainly broadleaves: cherry, birch, rowan, oak, ash and hawthorn although there are some Scots pine. These trees were planted in 2004 and are still in the establishment phase

		leading into canopy closure stage.
Mixed broadleaves	9.87	This is a mixed broadleaved compartment with approximately 2ha of open space in two blocks. Ash is the dominant species with around 4 ha of ash woodland, with a sycamore and willow as subspecies. The other areas of the wood are made up of oak, birch and hazel, with around 2 ha dominated by sycamore.
Birch dominated woodland	11.90	This area is on the other side on the bypass and is dominated by birch. There is a sub-dominated rowan element as well as a minor, but significant amount of ash and sycamore. There are also some beech to the east and willows in the wetter areas. There is also a swath of open space in the south eastern section of wood.
Conifers	3.36	This conifer woodland was planned as a commercial plantation. The larch and douglas fir were planted in the 1960s and some sporadic thinning has taken place.

Stand Data

The larch has not been measured, however, it is estimated that there is approximately 250 to 275m³ per hectare standing. There have not been measurements taken of the broadleaves.





Survey Data

A survey of the birds was under taken in 2008 and a survey of users was under taken in 2007.

23.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There is one Listed Building at St Magdalene's Hill dated 1878. It is a rare example of 5-bay, rectangular-plan, pied-roofed former city gunpowder magazine and high boundary wall. This is situated just off the Council ownership boundary.

Ecological

The site does not have any ecological designations. There have been reported sightings of Red Squirrels although these have not been confirmed. Some areas of grassland are species rich and there is a rich ground flora in the native woodland areas.

Herbivore

Roe Deer are present and cause some damage to saplings. There are also grey squirrels and other common mammals such as rabbits, foxed, mice and moles.

Social

A mountain boarding track has been created and this attracts users for approximately one third of the year. This was initially developed due to a member of the community approaching the steering group and the Council are interested in hearing any other ideas to attract young people to use the site.

Public Access

The main circular routes, including the circular path around Hilton Hill, are designated Core Paths. They are well used, as are the other paths that crisscross the site predominantly by local dog walkers.

Frequent tree inspections should take place along paths, the frequency of which should be determined by the tree officer and access officers with a minimum for one inspection every three years. Remedial work recommended by inspections should be undertaken as soon as possible.

23.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	Increasing an understory will sequester more carbon and the young trees will take up more carbon than the older stands.	Low
Timber	The small amount of larch taken out on each thinning cycle may be used as milling timber or as biomass.	Medium
Business development	The mountain boarding site will encourage more young people into the sport and the site as a whole makes Perth an attractive area to live and work.	Low
Community development	There is strong structured community involvement at St Magdalene's and this gives local people the channel to improve their local environment. The use of the site by groups such as the Scouts and local walking groups also means that a sense of place and ownership is developed.	Medium
Access and health	The site is well used and it is an important green space for local people to use and enjoy. As it is on a hill the site also proves a challenge to some, and rewards with views and tranquillity to those who make it to the less used areas.	High
Environmental quality	The noise and particulate matter from the bypass is absorbed by the woodland and the trees intercept rainfall and reduce surface runoff.	Medium
Biodiversity	Whilst the site is not designated as a conservation area, the high amount of native broadleaved trees and the relative seclusion of Hilton Hill makes the site a haven for wildlife. In addition it forms part of the local habitat network.	High

23.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Building a confident and active community is one of the aims of the Corporate Plan. The woodland and associated greenspace provides a place for informal exercise and an area for enjoying the outdoors that helps mental health and social cohesion.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

All three of the principles of the community plan are supported by the management of St Magdalene's Hill. The site is an equaliser as it is open to everybody, it is managed in a sustainable way for future generations to enjoy and there is community engagement in the way forward for the management of the site.

23.5 Silvicultural Policy

Continuous cover forestry, requiring low intervention and of high habitat and recreation value. Work to be undertaken is to continue to thin the conifer block and to gradually replace with native broadleaved species. This may cause the remaining trees to blow over, however, it is thought preferable to attempt to gently thin it and create a broadleaved understory, rather than clear fell. If the wood starts to blow over then machines can be brought in to clear fell.

To create a native woodland, the sycamore removal programme should be continued with the sycamore gradually removed at a rate that is 'tolerable' with users.

Felling and Thinning

Thinning of the conifer blocks will be undertaken on a selective thin bases, with the smaller weaker trees, and the trees around broadleaves, taken out first. This will hopefully reduce the risk of windblow. The whole site will be thinned every five years with approximately 10% taken out during each cycle.

Sycamore should also be gradually removed, with semi-mature trees taken out first along with the removal of natural regeneration. Again, this should be undertaken gradually, with three to four trees taken out each year. The wood should be left on site as deadwood habitat.

The ash block will also be lightly thinned to prevent the trees getting too tall and whippy.

Restructuring and New Planting

Although there is a lot of open space on the Hill which could potentially be planted with trees, the views would be blocked and the 'open' feel of the hill, which many people enjoy, would be lost. Therefore, the existing proportion of open space will be retained, with the blocks of trees providing valuable edge habitats.

Felling Period	Area of Thinning (ha)	Area of Felling (net area) (ha)	Restructuring Area by Successor Crop Types (net area of species, other land to cover open ground) (ha)						
			Sitka Spruce	Other Conifer	Mixed Broadleaves	Native Broadleaves	Caledonian Scots Pine	Natural Regeneration	Other Land
2015	3.36	0.1						0.1	
2020	3.36	0.1						0.1	
Totals		0.2						0.2	

23.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024-2034
Thin conifers.											
Thin ash.											
Respace young planted trees.											
Fell sycamore.											

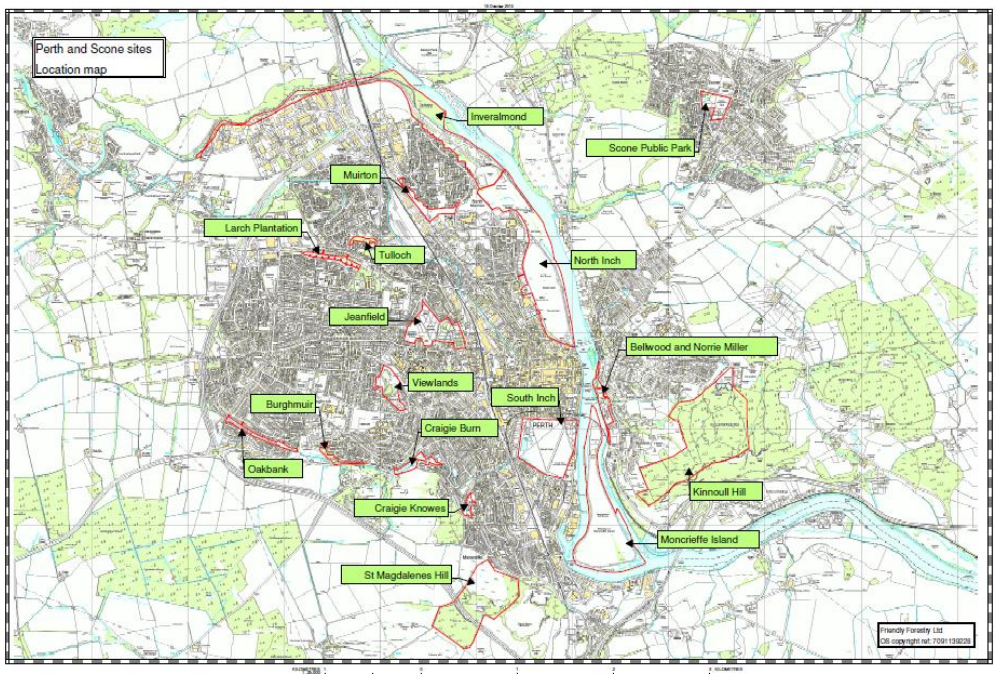
23.7 Production Forecast

Species	Year	Volume
Sycamore	2015	<10 m^3
Larch	2015	40 m^3
Ash	2015	<10 m^3
Sycamore	2020	<10 m^3
Larch	2020	40 m^3
Ash	2020	<10 m^3

24 North Inch

24.1 Location and Background

Comment [JS1]: This map is removed in the copy that went to pre agenda today but the north inch heading needs to go in bold and increased size font.



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The North Inch covers an area of 53 ha and it is located in the north east of Perth, north of the old town and with the river Tay as its eastern boundary.

Altitude

The site is around 15 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are predominantly alluvial deposits along with Doune brown forest soils.

History

Along with the South Inch, the North Inch was gifted to the city by King Robert II in 1374. Originally used as a flood plain the parkland is now protected by embankments. This was also the place for the execution of witches in Perth.

Community Interest

There is strong community interest in the North Inch. As well as being used by walkers, cyclists and dog walkers, it is the location for cricket, rugby, football and golf; the North Inch golf club is located in the north of the Park.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. One response was received and the management proposals on the consultation map were fully supported. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

For a high quality green space that provides space for sports and other recreational activity, along with tree cover that enhances the views and 'natural' feel of the park.

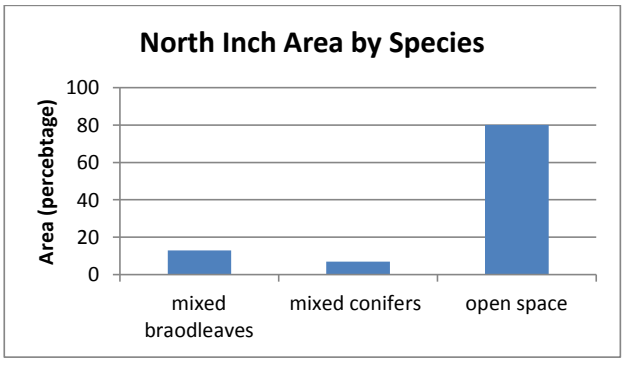
Management Objectives

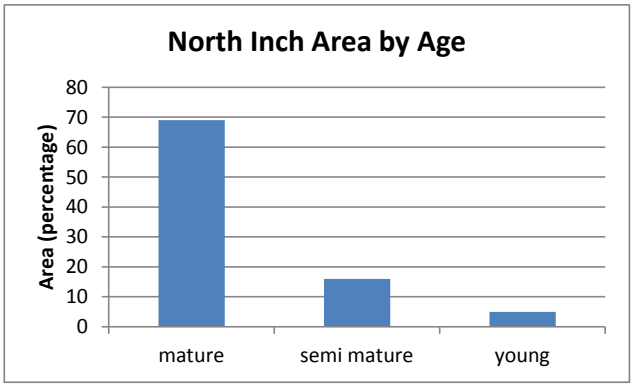
1) Plant more fruit trees around the play areas.
2) Safety inspection of trees.
3) Replace damaged or removed trees.

Site and Species Descriptions

An open parkland with avenues along the circular path and occasional individual scattered trees. Species include Douglas fir, beech, sycamore, ash, horse chestnuts, silver birch, aspen, lime, alder and goat willow.

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

24.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are a number of Canmore records in the Park including two anti-tank blocks, a commemorative war memorial and an arrowhead, axe head and spindle wheel were found on the North Inch. There is also an area of rig and furrow on the golf course.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site.

Herbivore

Rabbits, hares and voles are present on site.

Social

The Park is well used and there has been a small amount of damage to trees, however, it is not widespread.

Public Access

There is public access across the parkland and the circular path around the southern section and the main north south paths are Core Paths.

24.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	Having high quality sports pitches near the centre of the city will reduce car miles	Low

	as participants can walk to the site or catch the bus.	
Timber	No timber will be produced on the North Inch.	Low
Business development	The North Inch is one of the attractions of Perth that will encourage people to live and work here. Also, events held on the Inch, especially sports matches, will bring visitors to the town.	Medium
Community development	The sports pitches and golf club are excellent for fostering a sense of community and togetherness. The other sports held on the park attract people from all social backgrounds and they can be enjoyed at little cost.	High
Access and health	Playing sports is excellent for health and fitness, and simply walking around the North Inch is good for physical and mental health.	High
Environmental quality	The Park will reduce runoff and therefore help to reduce downstream flooding.	Medium
Biodiversity	The biodiversity vale of the grassy areas and individual trees is low.	Low

24.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Having a facility such as the North Inch means that local residents can lead healthy and active lives and young people can fulfil their sporting potential.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Sport events are an excellent way of enhancing community cohesion.

24.5 Silvicultural Policy

Maintain the current level of tree cover and plan more fruit trees around the play park.

Felling and Thinning

Unless trees have to be removed for safety reasons no felling will take place.

Restructuring and New Planting

A handful of new fruit trees are to be planted around the play park.

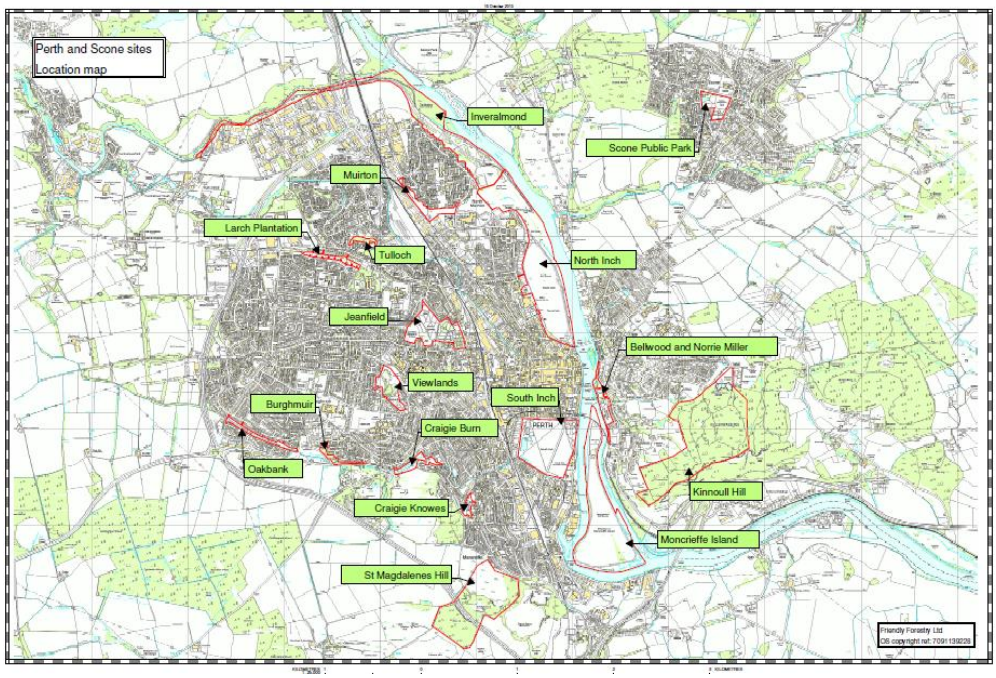
24.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

25 South Inch, Perth

25.1 Location and Background

Comment [JS2]: Map removed



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The South Inch is a 31.33ha parkland located in the south central area of Perth, just south of the old town.

Altitude

The site is around 15m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are mainly alluvial deposits with some brown forest soils.

History

The North and South Inches were gifted to the City of Perth by King Robert II in 1374. They were used as a bleachfield, for cattle grazing and for horse racing. They are part of Perth's

flood defences and the eastern section has been used for the Perth Highland games. In 1651 a citadel was built by Oliver Cromwell's forces in the north east of the park, which is now where the car park is located.

Community Interest

The main approach road from the south comes in along Edinburgh Road which runs through the south inch and the car park is well used by visitors to the city and residents. The parkland is well used by walkers, cyclists, and in the summer months it is popular with groups and families having picnics. There is also a boating pond, now a wildlife feature and sports pitches that are also popular. A regular fireworks event is held at the site.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. Two people responded and they supported the management proposals. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

Retain the current level and mix of tree cover and continue to manage as an attractive and popular amenity parkland.

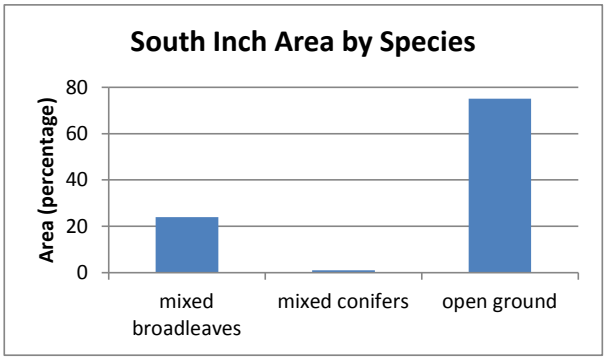
Management Objectives

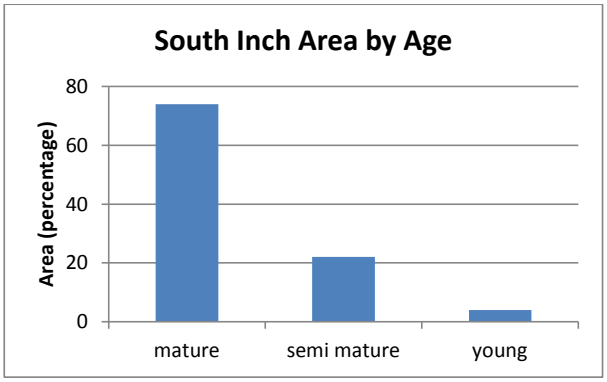
1) To monitor the trees for pests and diseases and remove any dead or dying trees.
2) Replace any trees that have been removed with the same or similar species.
3) Continue to cut the grass regularly.

Site and Species Descriptions

An open parkland with lines of mixed broadleaves along the road and footpaths, as well as a few scattered trees in the grassy areas. Species include lime, oak, sycamore, cherry and beech, willow, purple plum, ash and hornbeam. Craigie Burn runs along the Southern boundary.

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

25.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

As well as the Scheduled Monument of Cromwell's citadel, there have been a number of finds on the South Inch including a sword, coins, crafts and a badge. The site of a former sheep fold can also be seen at the south east part of the park. There are no plans to plant more trees on the parkland so any further excavation of the area will not be hindered.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the parkland.

Herbivore

There are rabbits and squirrels present on the site.

Social

The site is well used informally throughout the year by people walking and cycling and just enjoying being outside. There are also a number of formal events held at the South Inch, such as the Perth Show.

Public Access

There is public access throughout the site and Core Paths cross the western section.

25.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The effects of climate changes, such as flooding, can be reduced in Perth as the South Inch is a strategic part of the city's flood defences. Also, having a mix of tree species, both native and non-native will reduce the risk of a tree disease destroying all the trees in the park.	Low
Timber	Aside from the dead and dying trees being felled, there will be no timber production.	Low
Business development	The South Inch is a dramatic and attractive parkland to drive though on the approach to Perth and it is part of the attraction for tourists and businesses who come to the city. In addition, events are held on the South Inch and this brings in revenue to the city, and the car park is also important for shoppers and visitors.	Medium
Community development	As well as informal community development, such as meeting up on the inch, jogging, kicking a ball about and children playing, there are also formal events that bring the community together.	High
Access and health	The attractive footpaths that cross the South Inch encourage people to walk rather than drive into the city centre and people use it for jogging and other outdoor fitness activities. The paths are accessible for all users including those in wheelchairs or with mobility problems enabling them to get outside and enjoy the fresh air.	High
Environmental quality	The large area of grassland will reduce runoff and increase rainfall infiltration rates and the trees provide shade in the	Medium

Theme	Aims	Priority
	summer.	
Biodiversity	The parkland provides a limited amount of food and habitat for wildlife.	Low

25.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The aims of supporting people to lead healthy and active lives are fully supported by the South Inch as the parkland provides an excellent site for a wide range of physical activity, from gentle strolls to running. In addition, the South Inch is an attractive and welcoming environment that helps achieve a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

A number of community activities take place on the South Inch, from 'buggy boot camp' through to nursery and school outings. The South Inch is at the heart of the community in south Perth.

25.5 Silvicultural Policy

The policy is to maintain the existing level of tree cover and replace trees that need to be removed for health and safety reasons.

Felling and Thinning

Unless trees have to be removed for safety reasons no felling will take place.

Restructuring and New Planting

Trees are to be planted in the gaps of the avenues and the species should reflect the other species in the avenue. The trees should be protected by timber enclosures/tree guards.

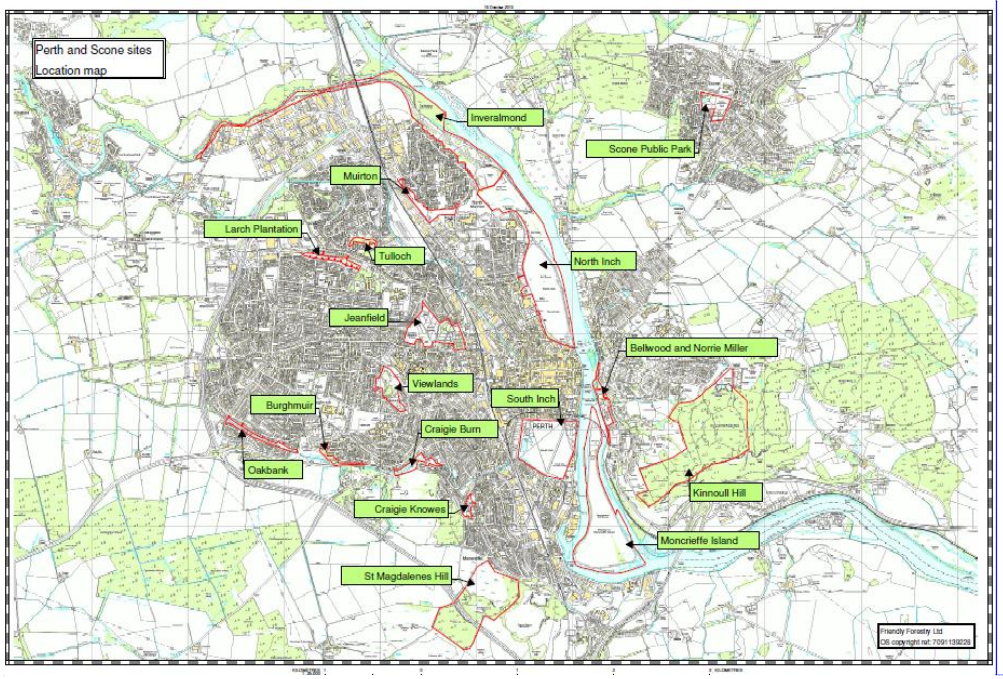
25.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Plant gaps in avenues.										

26 Tulloch Woods

26.1 Location and Background



Comment [JS3]: MAP NO LONGER

Property

There are two woodland areas at Tulloch, a Larch plantation running along the north side of Strathtay Road and an area running around the west and north side of Wallace Crescent. The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Larch plantation covers an area of 2.4 ha and the woodland at Wallace Crescent is 1.29 ha.

Altitude

Both sites are approximately 50 m above sea level at their maximum point.

Soils

The soils are imperfectly drained Cauldside soils.

History

The site was planted in the late 1960s alongside the house building.

Community Interest

There are a number of formal paths that cut through the larch plantation onto Crieff Road, although there is little evidence that people are actually walking through the woodland. There are no formal paths through the woods on Wallace Crescent although there is an informal path that runs around the back of the flats in the western section, although there is no path in the eastern section. In the eastern section there are two styles from the children's play park although one is completely overgrown and the other does not look well used. There is also a cut through to Cairns Crescent in the western section. There is a lot of litter along the paths at Wallace Crescent.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

Attractive urban woodlands, managed as continuous cover, which are well used by local residents.

Management Objectives

1) Improve the condition of the path through the western section of Wallace Crescent woodland, remove the litter and install litter bins, clear back some undergrowth and selectively fell 20% of the spruce to let in light.
2) Cut back the vegetation from the styles into the play park, and make the woodland area around the park attractive and safe for children to play in.
3) Plant more fruit trees along the edges of the larch plantation.
4) Undertake tree safety surveys of the larch, and monitor after heavy winds to assess windblow.

Site and Species Descriptions

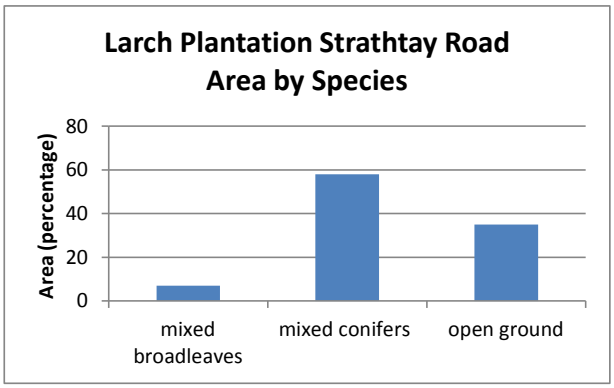
The larch plantation is a strip of mature larch trees that run in an east-west direction that were planted around 1965 to 1970 at 2 m spacing. They have self-thinned and the woodland has some understory of elder and other species including sycamore, lime and birch, as well as some Scots pine. There are also some apple trees along the southern edge of the larch trees.

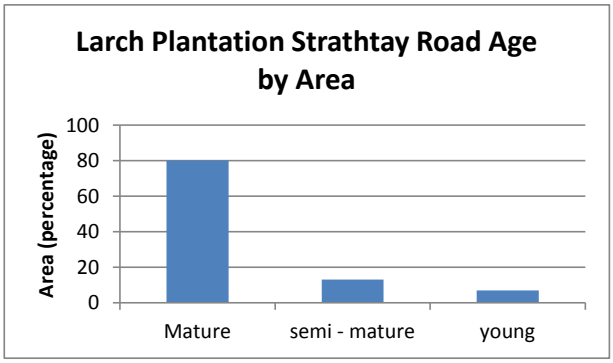
The woods behind Wallace Crescent are predominantly spruce with sycamore, poplars and cherry as well as hawthorn. It is possible to walk through the western section, however, the undergrowth and brambles in the eastern section have prevented informal footpath /desire

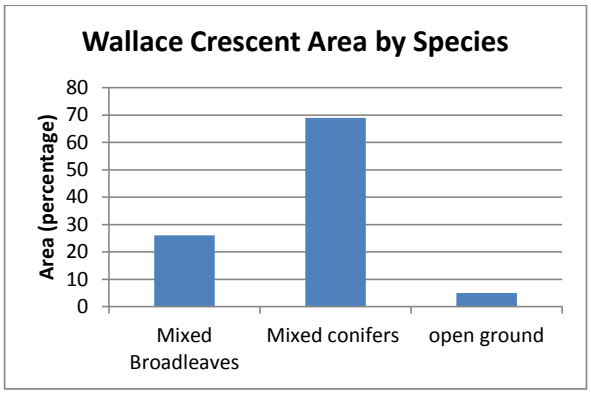
lines from being created. The spruce are mature and there is a good mix of ages in the other species.

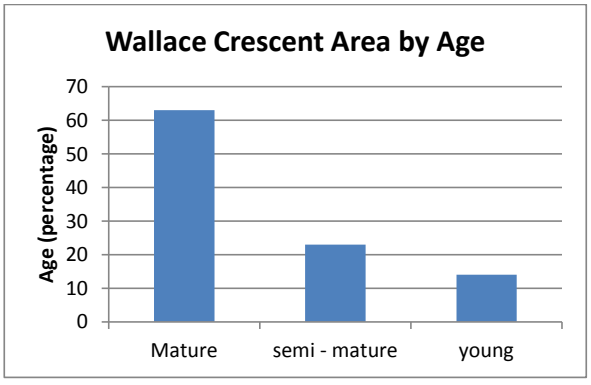
Figure 15: The Spruce Area, with Litter, at Tulloch

Stand Data









Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

26.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There is a record of a workman's dwelling within the larch plantation and this is listed as a Canmore record. There are no other archaeological records within the two woodlands.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the sites.

Herbivore

There is not a problem with deer and there is evidence of rabbits and squirrels.

Social

There is a problem with litter being left at both sites, however, it is much worse in the woods behind Wallace Crescent.

Public Access

There are five paths that cut through the larch plantation to get onto Crieff Road. There is an informal footpath through the western section of the woods at Wallace Crescent.

26.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The mature conifer trees are reaching their age of maximum mean annual increment which means that their growth is slowing and therefore the rate of carbon they lock up is reducing.	Low
Timber	Unless the larch plantation has to be clear-felled due to catastrophic wind blow there will not be any scope for timber production.	Low
Business development	The larch plantation provides an attractive backdrop if approaching the city from the Crieff Road.	Low
Community development	The woods provide an ideal opportunity to get the community involved in improving their environment.	Medium
Access and health	If the woods behind Wallace Crescent can be improved they will provide an ideal location for local children to play in a semi-natural setting and this will not only improve their physical health, now and in years to come, but it will also improve their mental health.	Medium
Environmental quality	The woods intercept rain and reduce run off, especially as both woods are on inclines.	Medium

Biodiversity	The woods will provide habitats for birds and mammals such as rabbits and squirrels.	Low

26.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The aim of developing informed and responsible citizens, as well as creating a safe and sustainable environment for future generations, will be supported by empowering local residents to improve their natural environment.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Work undertaken to improve the woodlands will more likely succeed if local residents and communities are engaged in the process.

26.5 Silvicultural Policy

Even though the conifers at both sites have been planted as plantations, the woodlands should be managed as continuous cover due to their locations near to residential areas and their prominence in the landscape.

Felling and Thinning

Any thinning of the Larch may reduce the windfirmness of the plantation and risk areas of wind blow. Therefore the self-thinning should be left to continue, with an understory continuing to develop naturally.

Areas of understory should be cleared out from the Wallace Crescent woods to make it feel safer and more open.

Restructuring and New Planting

No new planting is to be undertaken, except for more fruit trees along the edge of the larch plantation.

Community Involvement

These are ideal sites to get the local community involved in improving their local woodlands. The woods behind Wallace Crescent need to be cleaned up and a community litter picking day would be ideal for this. In addition, some of the undergrowth should be cleared out, especially along the informal footpath to make it feel more open and inviting. Also, the area adjacent to the play area (which the two stiles go into) should be cut back and opened up so that it can be used as an extension of the play park. Mature trees do not need to be felled, but any smaller trees that are removed can be cut up to make natural play features. A new fence would have to be put in around the cleared out area.

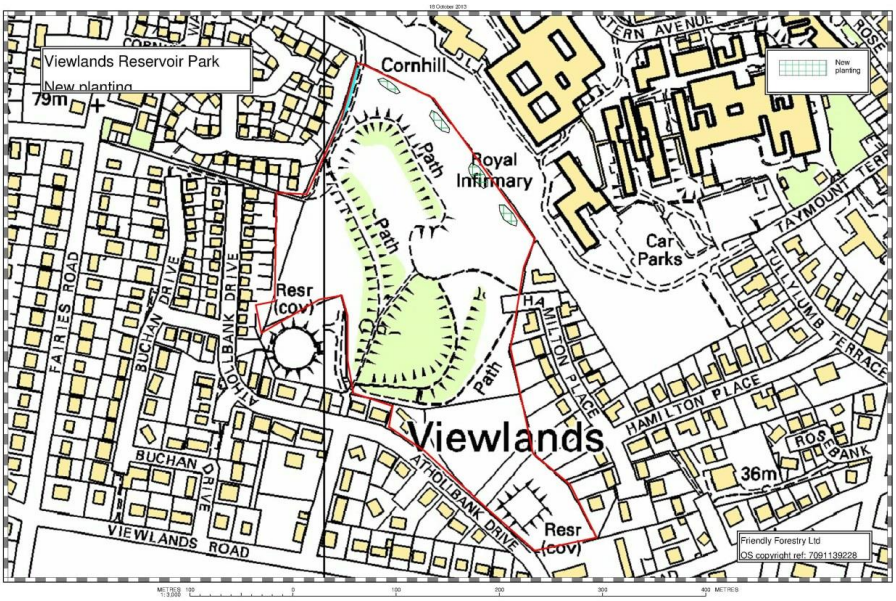
In addition, the residents of Strathtay Road could get involved with planting the fruit trees and putting together the tree shelters.

26.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Community litter picking day.										
Clearing out behind the play park										
Planting fruit trees alongside the Larch plantation.										

27 Viewlands Reservoir Park

27.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned and managed by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Park is located in the centre of Perth. It covers an area of 6.92 ha and it is on the slopes to the west of Perth Royal Infirmary.

Altitude

The lower areas are 50 m above sea level rising to around 70 m at the highest point.

Soils

The soils are sourhope – brown forest soils.

History

The park was created in the 1880s as a covered reservoir, although the reservoir was withdrawn from service in the 1970s.

Community Interest

The park is well used by local residents for walking and cycling.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

To increase the screening of the hospital and continue to manage the Park as an oasis within the urban area.

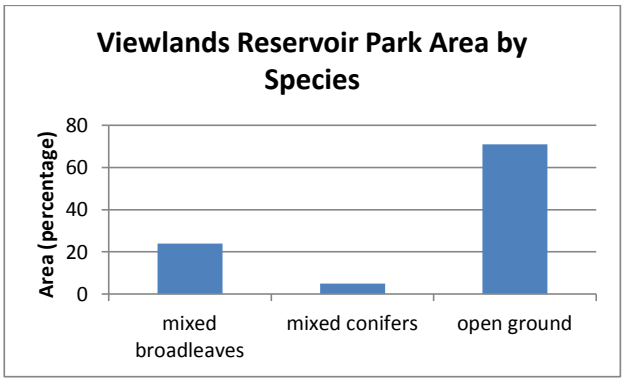
Management Objectives

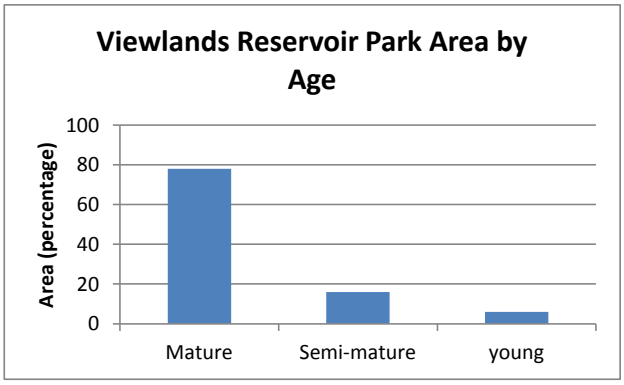
1) Replace any newly planted trees that have not established.
2) Continue to plant more screen trees.
3) Continue with tree safety surveys.

Site and Species Descriptions

The Park is predominantly parkland with three strips of woodlands – two running north south, the other in a northeast-south west direction. Aside from a few Corsican pine, the woodlands are broadleaved. Species include Norway maple, horse chestnut, rowan, white beam, hawthorn and alder. Most of the trees in the 'woodland' areas are mature; there are some young trees on the bank adjacent to the hospital in the east.

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

27.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no listed archaeological sites within the Park.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations in the Park.

Herbivore

There are rabbits and squirrels present on the site.

Social

The Park is well used and there has been some damage to some of the young trees and some litter left.

Public Access

There is public access across the site except for the reservoir cover.

27.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	The trees are a carbon store.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The site is one of a number of greenspaces in Perth that add to the	Low

	desirability of living or working in the city.	
Community development	There is no formal 'friends of' group.	Low
Access and health	The Park is used by local people for exercise.	Medium
Environmental quality	The trees will intercept rainfall and reduce surface runoff in the area. They also provide shade from the sun.	Medium
Biodiversity	The trees create small microclimates for lichens and insects, which in turn provide food for birds.	Low

27.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Viewlands Reservoir Park increases the desirability of the city as a pleasant place to live and work.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Maintaining a high quality amenity green space will give local residents an opportunity to lead active lives.

27.5 Silvicultural Policy

Felling and Thinning

Unless trees are removed for safety reasons no other felling will take place.

Restructuring and New Planting

Small groups/enclosures of native mixed broadleaves should be planted in the east of the park. Each enclosure should be around 0.02 ha (40 by 50 m) with trees planted at approximately 3 m spacing.

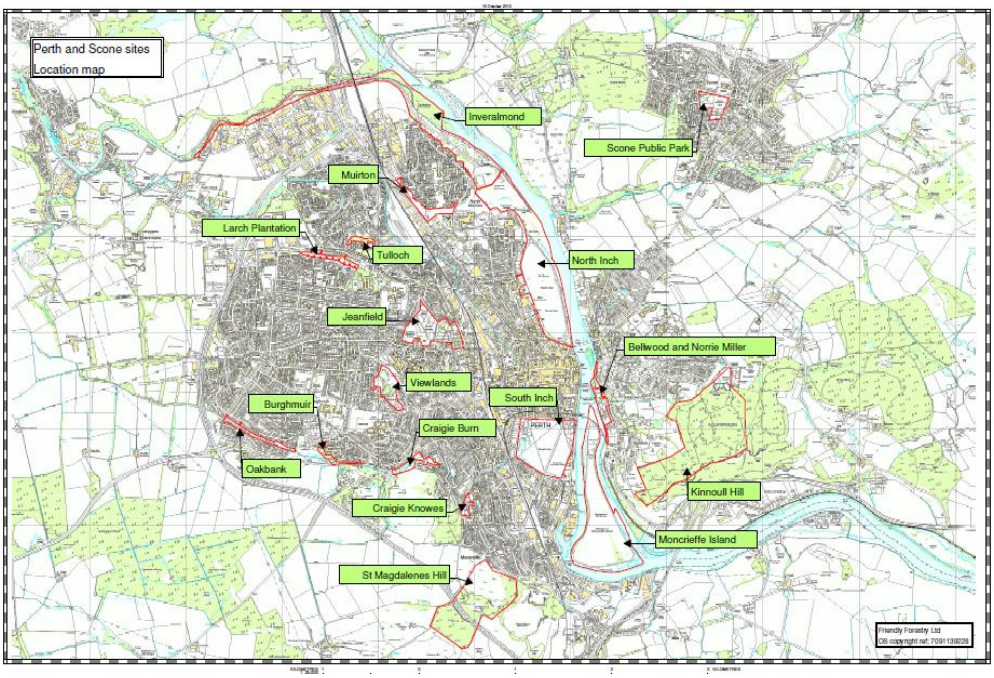
27.6 Work Plan

Activity	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023-2033**
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

Plant small groups of broadleaves.										

28 Jeanfield Cemetery

28.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned and managed by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The site covers an area of 16.05 ha. It is located in the centre of Perth and is predominantly made up of the cemetery and former allotment site.

Altitude

The site is around 30 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Darvel soils.

History

Opened in 1844 as Wellshill cemetery the site has expanded into the adjacent Jeanfield Recreation ground.

Community Interest

The cemetery is often visited as are the sports pitches and open space. The footpaths are also well used.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

To manage the trees so they enhance the setting of the cemetery and gradually replace the conifers with broadleaves.

Management Objectives

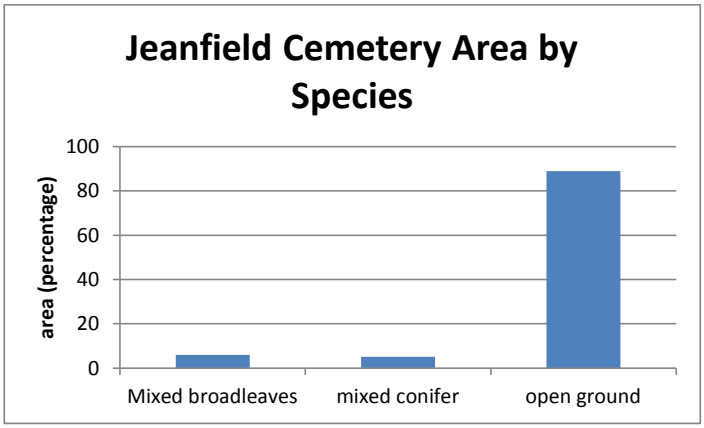
1) Continue with tree safety surveys.
2) Any conifers that are dead or dying and need replacing should be felled and replaced with broadleaves such as cherry.

Site and Species Descriptions

Predominantly grass areas, the site has a number of interesting trees such as a small group of Monkey Puzzle, and scattered individual cherry, plum, crab apple, limes, birch, Lawson cypress and Rowan.

Figure 16:

Stand Data



Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

28.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

The only archaeological record is a find of a roman coin in the centre of the site.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site

Herbivore

There are no issues with herbivores on the site.

Social

The site is well used and there has been no reported damage of any of the trees.

Public Access

There is public access across the site and the cemetery has numerous paths between the graves.

28.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The site has little impact on climate change.	Low
Timber	There will be no timber production from the site.	Low
Business development	Activity on the site has a low impact on the business development of the area.	Low
Community development	The site is a place for burials and this brings people together, in addition the footpaths in the west of the site are used by local residents.	Medium
Access and health	The footpaths that cut through the west of the site are used for walking and other types of exercise.	Medium
Environmental quality	The grass is better than urban surfaces for reducing run off.	Low
Biodiversity	Graveyards can be good for biodiversity but this is generally in older graveyards where the grass is cut less frequently and tree are left to regenerate.	Low

28.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The cemetery is an attractive and welcoming place and this is one of the aims of the Corporate Plan.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The cemetery is used by members of the community and it is the preferred resting place for a lot of the population of Perth.

28.5 Silvicultural Policy

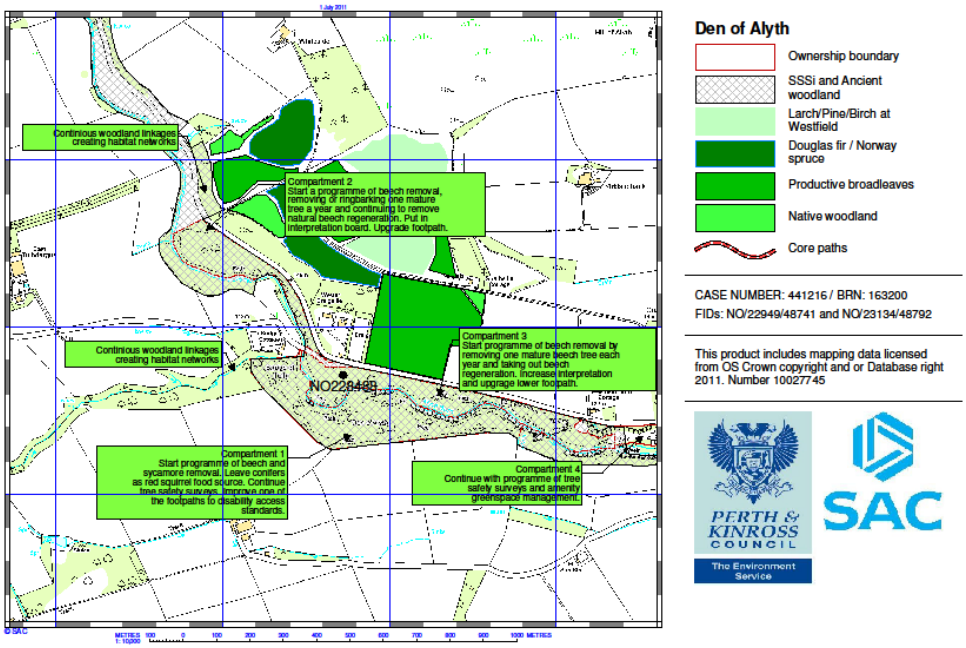
To maintain the level of existing tree cover and replace any trees that need removing for health and safety reasons.

28.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

29 Den O'Alyth

29.1 Location and Background



Property

Perth and Kinross City Council own the woodland. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Den O'Alyth is located to the west of Alyth and covers an area of 24.7 ha of which 20.79 ha are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The woodland runs either side of the Alyth burn and gorge for 2.3 km, reaching a width of no more than 250 m.

Altitude

The altitude ranges from 150 m to 90 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Gleneagles: Brown Forest Soils with some humus-iron podzols and some gleys.

History

The site was gifted to the Alyth Town council in 1923 by the Earl of Airlie, having been woodland since the mid-19th century. It has been managed as an amenity space since then, with the burn being used in the past as a swimming pool and curling pond.

There is currently a woodland management plan for 2008 to 2013 that sets out the key management needs and five year programme of works.

Community Interest

There is strong interest from the local community in the Den O'Alyth and volunteer conservation days have been undertaken there. There is particular attachment from the local people to the beech trees and the Red Squirrels. There is also a children's play park on site within the open areas of Compartment 4.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for the Den of Alyth to be a SSSI in favourable condition whilst providing a high quality natural visitor experience for local residents and tourists.

Management Objectives

1) Gradually take out the beech and sycamore trees and remove the seedlings.
2) Increase the interpretation about the SSSI and Red Squirrel habitats.
3) Maximise structural diversity by fostering the understory and coppicing some of the hazel.
4) Maintain current levels of deadwood, both standing and on the ground.
5) Maintain and improve visitor facilities including paths, interpretation boards and benches.

Site and Species Descriptions

The woodland is mixed broadleaved with a large proportion of oak, birch and ash with pockets of beech and a few sycamore. The age range is mixed from young regeneration through to mature and standing deadwood. There are also areas of Hazel scrub. There are also non-woodland habitats such as bogs and open glades. There are also some exposed rocky cliffs cut by the river and quarrying activities in the past.

Compartment	Area (ha)	Description
1	8.75	Mixed broadleaved woodland dominated by Oak, birch woodland (W10) with ash birch (W9) woodland in wetter areas. Few exotic species including sycamore and beech. Reasonable amount of standing deadwood.
2	3.73	Mixed broadleaved woodland dominated by ash birch

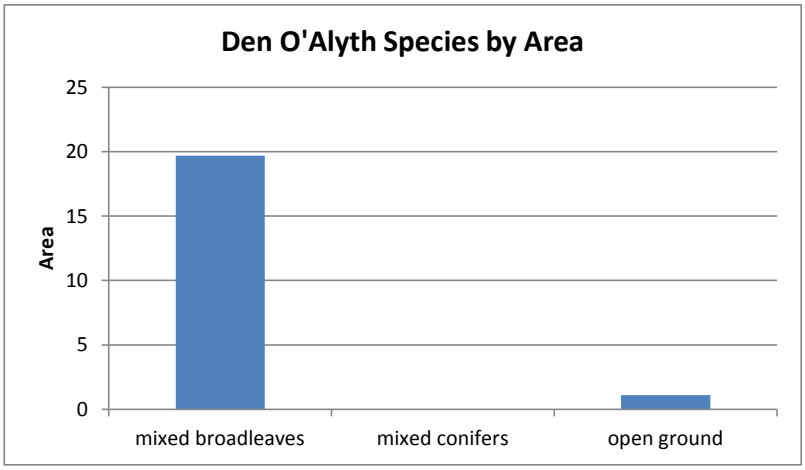
		woodland (W9) along with an area of oak, birch wood (W10) felling has opened up areas that are now colonised by natural regeneration.
3	6.04	Mixed broadleaved woodland including oak, birch woodland and ash birch woodland, with substantial areas of beech dominated woodland, along with defined areas of coppice stools
4	1.6	Open ground including amenity green space.

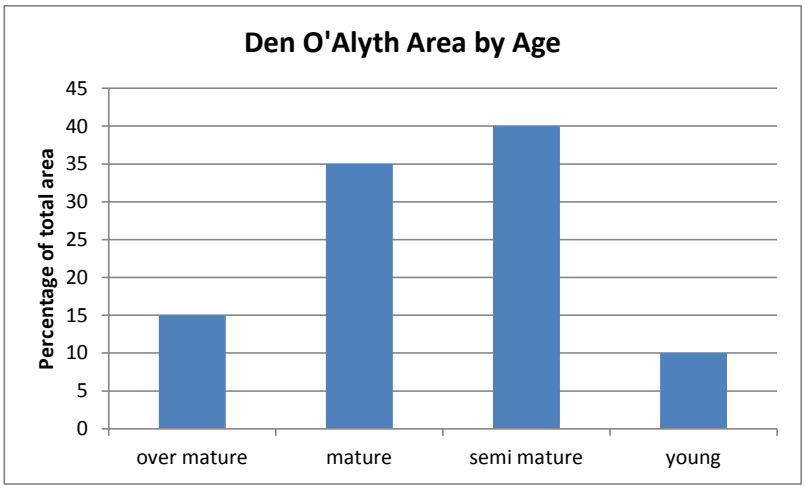
Figure 16: Standing Dead Wood at the Den O'Alyth

Figure 17: Mixed Broadleaves at Alyth Den

Stand Data

Compartment	Species	Area (ha)	Age
1	Mixed broadleaves (mainly oak/birch with some ash)	8.75	Mature and semi-mature
2	Mixed broadleaves (ash/oak/birch/beech)	3.73	Mature, some semi-mature and some regeneration
3	Mixed broadleaves (beech/oak/birch)	6.70	Mixed – mainly mature and over mature with some semi mature and some regeneration
4	Open ground with some strips of mixed broadleaves	1.61	Mature and semi-mature
Total		20.79	





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

29.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Landscape

The Landscape Character Assessment of Tayside classifies the Den O'Alyth as part of the broadvalley lowlands. One of the key characteristics of this region is 'Tree loss that weakens the landscape character'. There are no landscape guidelines within the LCA relating directly to existing woodlands, however, there is a desire to create an integrated pattern of woodlands, and the Den O'Alyth forms the backbone of such a network.

Archaeological

There are two designated archaeological sites within the wood. The first is a curling pond to the east and the second is the Georgian bridge over the Alyth Burn.

Ecological

The woodland is classified as a SSSI for its upland mixed ash wood. There have not been any bird, mammal or herbaceous surveys undertaken here although there are known to be several locally uncommon plant species including *Convallaria majalis* and *Neottia nidus-avis*. There have also been a number of landslips on site and these have resulted in the closure of the burn side footpath. Tree roots and ground vegetation can stabilise slopes and therefore to reduce the risks of landslips in the future, continuous cover forestry must be undertaken on the banks. Any trees removed or blown over on the slopes should have their stumps and root plate left in place.

Herbivore

There was no significant evidence of deer browsing and the high level of natural regeneration suggests that deer are not using the Den. The rabbit damage was also insignificant. There are both red and grey squirrels on site although no base line survey has been done.

Social

There are very few problems with anti-social behaviour. The middle car park has been closed due to improper use. There is a small amount of litter on site.

Public Access

The footpaths form part of the core path network and the ALTH/16 and 119 follow the circular paths to the south and north side of the rivers respectively. The northern path is suitable for disabled users.

29.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	As part of a network of woodlands in the area, the Den O'Alyth will contribute to the landscape scale ecosystem adaption to climate change. The woodland is managed under continuous cover regime and therefore the carbon retention within the wood is high.	Medium
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The Den O'Alyth increases the desirability of the area as both a place to live and a	Low

Theme	Aims	Priority
	place to work. The woodland is mainly visited by local people, however, the tourist potential can, and should, be increased. The volunteer activity undertaken in the wood provides people with a transferable skill that can be used in other aspects of life such as employment.	
Community development	The Den is an important part of the landscape of Alyth. It provides an important sense of place for the residents. There are over 100 volunteer days a year from various groups, and a high level of interest from local users, especially from the Alyth Local Environment Group.	High
Access and health	The paths are well used. The path through Compartment 3 is suitable for disabled users and is part of the 'walks for wheels' scheme. There are car parking facilities and the Den is easily accessed from Alyth Town. Volunteers take part in physical activity such as pulling up sycamore saplings.	High
Environmental quality	The trees on the banks of the river will reduce soil erosion, stabilise the river banks and reduce water acidification. They will also reduce airborne dust particles and noise from the nearby A926.	High
Biodiversity	Forms part of a habitat network; a SSSI and designated as an upland mixed ash wood. Upland Ashwoods are also HAP habitats for Tayside, as they are amongst the richest habitats for wildlife in the uplands. There are red squirrels on site.	High

29.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Of the five objectives set out in the corporate plan, objective two 'promoting healthy, caring communities' is supported by this plan. Exercise can improve both physical and mental health and by improving the provision of the disabled access into the countryside, the aging population of Perth and Kinross can enjoy the benefits of getting out into woodlands.

Perth and Kinross Council Forest Plan 2015 – 2035

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The management proposals for the Den O'Alyth contribute to the outcomes of all three aims contained within the Community Plan. Firstly, managing the woodland sustainably will create a substantial natural environment that supports a vibrant and successful area, secondly, providing an attractive and safe outdoor space will improve health and well-being which in turn will support the aim of nurtured and supported people. Finally, the location of the Den O'Alyth next to the town of Alyth provides access to woodlands for everybody, and this can reduce inequalities between the affluent and disadvantaged, resulting in a more inclusive community.

29.5 Silvicultural Policy

Use low intervention techniques to gradually convert the woodland to a native ash/oak/birch woodland and continue using the continuous cover forestry regime that encourages a more diverse age structure. Small-scale selective felling, thinning, path construction and maintenance along with some small-scale enrichment planting are all desirable operations that will be carried out. These operations will benefit and enhance the existing amenity and biodiversity interests and diversify the current species structure of the woodland

Felling and Thinning

Thinning will be focused on the non-native species (beech and sycamore) and will consist of a) felling to waste near footpaths with the deadwood left in situ on the forest floor (with some of the branches tidied up) and b) ring barking away from footpaths to increase the amount of standing deadwood. Tree felling will be undertaken between August and February to avoid the nesting season. Thinning will take place in three phases, with around eight mature beech or sycamore trees felled in each phase in groups of two – three.

No large scale felling will take place. Some coppicing of the Hazel will be undertaken if volunteer numbers are high enough to make it worthwhile. The majority of the hazel will be allowed to grown into senescence as requested by SNH.

Restructuring and New Planting

Natural regeneration of exotic species (beech and sycamore) will be removed to prevent colonisation. Natural regeneration of oak and birch will be encouraged, herbivore browsing will be monitored.

No new planting will take place.

Management of Open Areas

Open areas will be maintained as amenity open space. Grass cutting will prevent tree encroachment.

Protection and Maintenance

All access points, boundary fences and walls will be monitored and repaired if necessary.

Herbivore Impacts

The vegetation will be monitored for damage by deer in partnership with SNH.

Public Access

Public access will be encouraged along existing routes in the woodland. Restrictions will be kept to a minimum when thinning is undertaken and suitable diversions put in place along with operational signs explaining the work that is being done.

Litter and rubbish is not a big problem but it will be collected on a regular basis.

Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

The woodland will be monitored for species of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam and other exotic species and if present, they will be removed/controlled.

Summary of Felling, Thinning and Restructuring

Felling Period	Area of Thinning (ha)	Area of Felling (net area) (ha)	Restructuring Area by Successor Crop Types (net area of species, other land to cover open ground) (ha)						
			Sitka Spruce	Other Conifer	Mixed Broadleaves	Native Broadleaves	Caledonian Scots Pine	Natural Regeneration	Other Land
2014		0.18						0.18	
2018		0.18						0.18	
2022		0.18						0.18	
Totals		0.54						0.54	

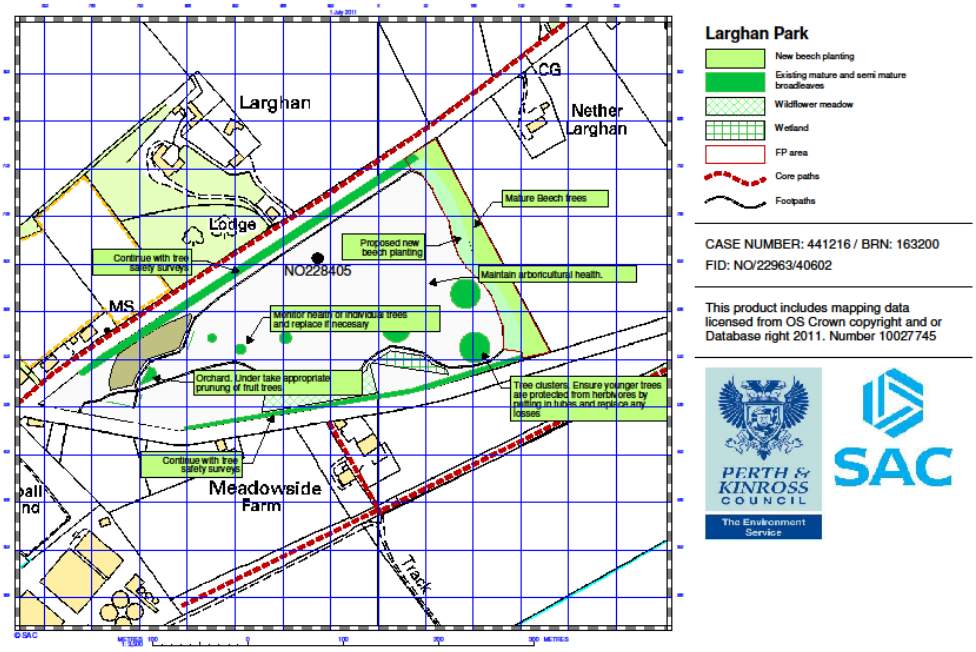
29.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent										

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
work required.										
Thinning of beech and sycamore.										
Planting of native species (or protecting natural regeneration).										
Coppice Hazel.										
Install interpretation board.										
Monitor condition of, and undertake subsequent maintenance of, paths.										

30 Larghan Park

30.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Larghan Park is a 7.9ha park situated to the east of the Perthshire town of Coupar Angus.

Altitude

The Park is at 60 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Forfar-a water sorted podzol overlying till derived from old red sandstone.

History

Larghan Park was gifted to the people of Coupar Angus on 15 May 1945 by a Feu Charter of Mrs Charlotte A. Ferguson for the purpose of public enjoyment and recreation. It was

originally called Larghan Victory Park in recognition of the success of World War II. It was very popular in the 1960s and it was recognised in the early 2000s that the equipment was not up to standard and needed replacing. The Park underwent a major redevelopment starting in 2005, and this included a new children's play area, new car park and landscaping.

Community Interest

The Friends of Larghan Park was set up at the start of the redevelopment process and alongside the local Bloom Group, Pride of Place, have assisted the Council with understanding the needs and desires of the local community.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 11 June 2013. One local resident commented on the Park and supported all the management proposals. In addition, a community group 'Pride of Place' offered to help with tree planting. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision of the Park is to continue managing it as a high quality green space, whilst ensuring the tree cover is maintained.

Management Objectives

1) Continue tree safety surveys.
2) Replace all dead or dying trees with the same or similar species.
3) Plant a strip of beech trees to maintain the shelter provided from the beech belt along the eastern edge of the park.

Site and Species Descriptions

The woodland elements to the park are:

1) A strip of beech trees along the eastern boundary of the Park.
2) A row of mature and semi-mature mixed broadleaves along the north and south boundaries and occasional individual or small groups of trees within the grassland area. Species include oak, cherry and rowan.
3) Planting undertaken during the development of the Park, including an area of fruit trees created to form a small orchard.
4) A newly planted area of mixed broadleaves in the south east of the Park.

The trees play a significant part in the landscape of the Park as they form the boundaries, provide features and depth and delineate man made features such as the play park and car park.

Figure 18: Fruit Trees at Larghan Park

Stand Data

No measurements have been taken.

Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken.

30.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no archaeological designations or Scheduled Monuments within the park.

Ecological

No surveys have been undertaken and there are no recoded BAP species on site.

Herbivore

There is evidence of rabbits on site.

Social

There have been problems with graffiti and fly-tipping.

Public Access

Core paths run past the Park and there are a number of paths within the Park.

30.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The trees are a carbon store.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The trees add texture and colour to the village and increase its attractiveness as a tourist destination.	Low
Community development	Friends of Larghan Park and Pride of Place act as an intermediary between the Council green space team and the local community. There are also other community groups interested in the Park.	Medium
Access and health	The Park is used by local people and visitors for exercise, and children enjoy running around and burning off energy in the Park.	High
Environmental quality	The trees will intercept rainfall and reduce surface runoff in the area. They also provide shade from the sun.	Low
Biodiversity	The trees create small microclimates for lichens and insects, which in turn provide food for birds.	Low

30.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Having confident, active and inclusive communities is one of the five objectives of the Corporate Plan and the facilities provided at the Park, and the Park itself does this fully.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Community engagement is at the heart of the Community Plan and the high level of community interest and leadership in the Park supports the principles of the community plan.

30.5 Silvicultural Policy

To maintain the existing tree cover and to continue with tree safety surveys.

Felling and Thinning

No felling or thinning is due to take place.

Restructuring and New Planting

To plant the area between the mature beech trees and the footpath. The landscape, habitat and shelter benefits provided by the mature beech trees will continue if a replacement row is planted now.

30.6 Work Plan

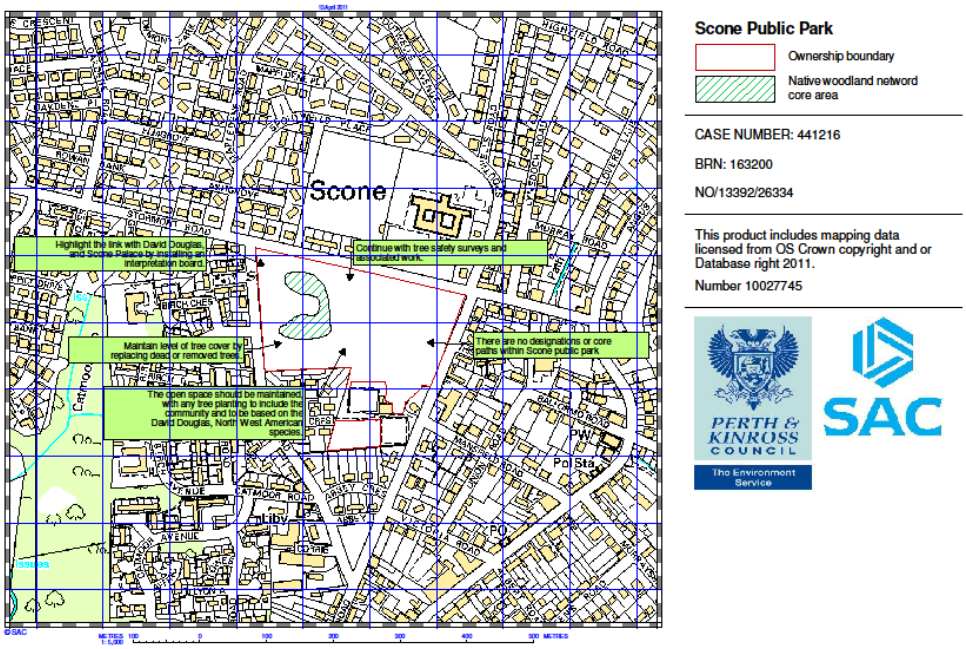
Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										
Plant between footpath and beech trees.										

30.7 Production Forecast

Not applicable.

31 Scone Public Park

31.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Scone Public Park is located in the centre of Scone, with the northern boundary of the Park running along Stormont Road. It covers an area of 4.7 ha.

Altitude

The site is 20 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are brown Forest soils**.**

History

The site of the Park was part of Scone Wood up until the 1920s when the Park and the surrounding housing was built.

Community Interest

The Park is well used by local residents and in the summer months tourists occasionally enjoy the Park.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 15 June 2013. Two responses were received from local residents who supported the proposed management objectives. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for the Park to be a well-used public amenity space that is enhanced by the trees within it.

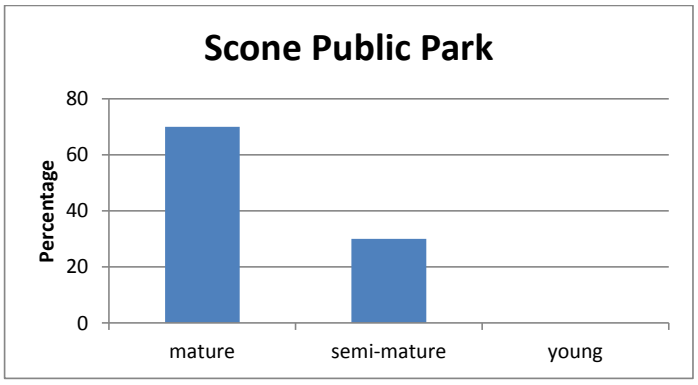
Management Objectives

1) Maintain the existing levels of tree cover by replacing dead or dying trees.
2) Continue with tree safety survey work.
3) Use an interpretation board to highlight the links with David Douglas.

Site and Species Descriptions

An amenity green space with a line of broadleaves along the northern boundary, as well as a scattering of trees throughout the park (Broadleaves) and around the pond.

Stand Data



Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

31.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

A standing stone has been re-erected, and there are no archaeological monuments within the Park.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations in the Park.

Herbivore

There are rabbits and squirrels in the Park.

Public Access

There is public access throughout the Park.

31.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	Trends in phenology give a good indication of changing average temperatures and residents will get a feel of the first occurrence of buds and leaves when walking through the Park.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The Park increases Scone's attractiveness as a place to live and the links with Scone Palace and David Douglas may attract tourists to the area.	Low
Community development	There is little scope for volunteer work days within the Park, although community groups are encouraged to use the Park.	Low
Access and health	Due to its proximity to residential areas the Park offers a pleasant local green space for gentle exercise and to refresh the mind. It is particularly well used by the elderly.	Medium
Environmental quality	Green spaces within urban areas, such as Scone Park, are essential in urban areas to increase rainfall infiltration to increase lag times and reduce flooding.	Medium
Biodiversity	There is some wildlife in the Park that children will enjoy seeing, such as	Low

Theme	Aims	Priority
	squirrels and some of the common birds.	

31.4 Silvicultural Policy

To maintain the level of tree cover and enhance the Park by having a backdrop of healthy trees.

Felling and Thinning

Unless it is for safety reasons no felling or thinning will be undertaken.

Restructuring and New Planting

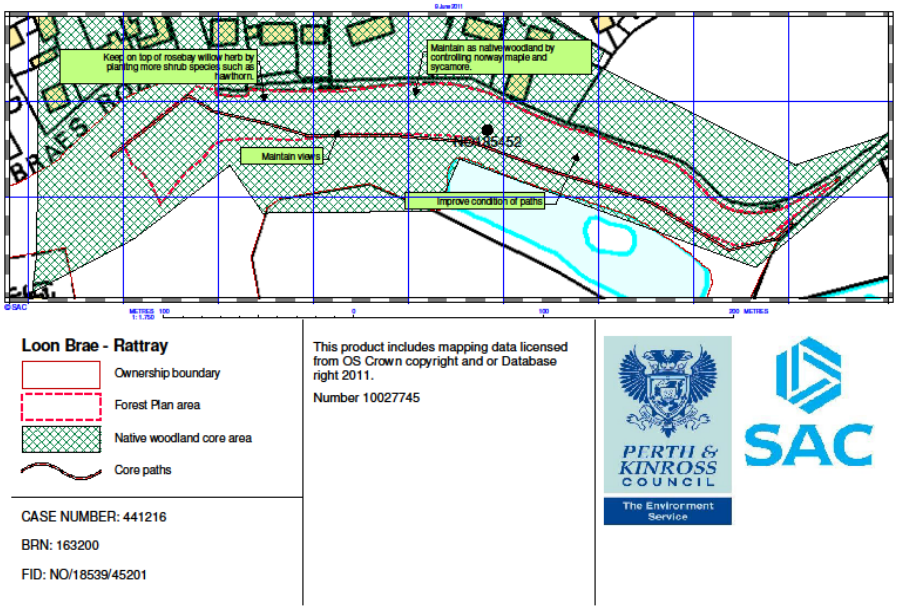
No new planting will take place unless it is to replace trees that have been taken down for safety reasons.

31.5 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

32 Loon Braes, Davie Park, Keithbank and Riverside

32.1 Location and Background



Property

The sites are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Three areas of greenspace/urban woodland are located in Blairgowrie and Rattray: Loon Braes and Davie Park are in the south east of Rattray and cover an area of 6.11 ha; and Keith Bank is in the north on the banks of the River Ericht. The riverside area is 0.78 ha and runs along the left bank of the River from the CuttleBurn to Lower Mill Street in the south.

Altitude

The sites are between 25 m and 60 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are predominantly alluvial soils (Culnacoyle), with the eastern part on Doune Brown Forest soils (derived from fluvioglacial sand a gravel).

History

The Park land was farmland up until the latter half of the 20th century, although the east west footpath along Loon Braes is marked on 1867 OS maps and is likely to have been in use well before this.

Community Interest

There is a lot of use of all the green spaces, as destinations in themselves, or as a thoroughfare to other destinations**.**

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 11 June 2013. Two responses were received and the management proposals were supported except for planting an understory at Loon Braes. In addition the following points were made:

1) Non-native trees from below the Keith Bank area should be removed.
2) Opportunities for 'natural play' such as tree stumps, rope swings, low hanging branches and muddy puddles should be left, or created, for children to enjoy.

The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The vision is for the management of the amenity green spaces to embrace a woodland feel and to provide semi-wild areas with the urban environment.

Management Objectives

1) Manage the woodland areas to convert them to native woodland.
2) Maintain the filtered views of the River Ericht.
3) Embrace 'natural-play' opportunities and leave tree stumps/low hanging branches in place.

Site and Species Descriptions

Loon Braes and Davie Park

The majority of the area is the amenity green space of Davie Park which has less than 5% tree cover – mainly in two strips along the paths that run east to west and a few scattered trees in the east corner by the sports pitch. Loon Braes is an attractive wooded area in the north of the Park that runs east to west. The woodland is mainly mixed broadleaves with a significant amount of non-native Sycamore and Norway maple. It has a fairly mixed age class with some regeneration and semi-mature trees among the mature trees. There are a number of paths, both formal and informal, that run through the woodland area.

Riverside

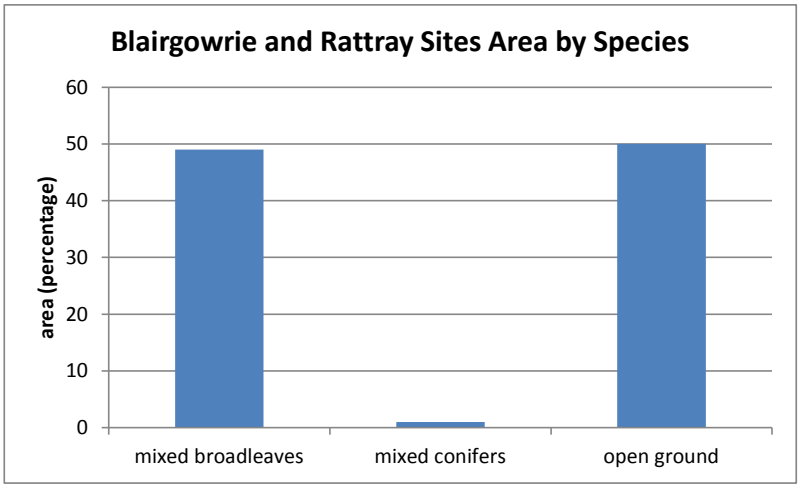
This area is also predominantly amenity green space although it has a higher proportion of trees than Davie Park. They are mostly located around the edge and are mixed broadleaves including oak, beech, sycamore, hawthorn and whitebeam. They are semi-mature and mature.

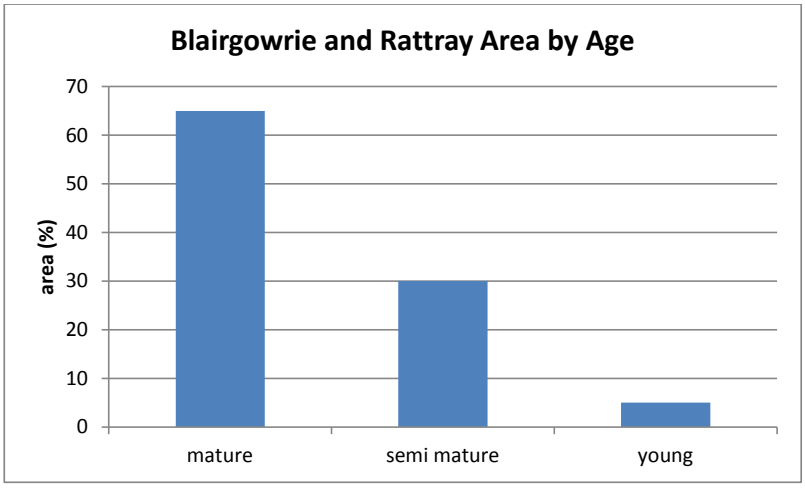
KeithbBank

This area has a high proportion of trees, again mixed broadleaves, with a significant amount of birch that has a path down to the bridge. The car parking area at the top is directly surrounded with grass areas with a few scattered trees.

Figure 19: View along the Riverside

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

32.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are three former mills within the Forest Plan areas: Keithbank, Oakbank and Blairgowrie weaving mills; trees nearby should be removed if they begin to cause structural problems to the buildings. Aside from these there are no other archaeological constraints.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the sites.

Herbivore

Rabbits and squirrels are present at all three sites.

Social

All the sites are well used by the public. There have been a few complaints about teenagers damaging the trees and 'hanging out' in the woods although others argue that youngsters spending time outside should be encouraged rather than discouraged.

Public Access

There is public access to all the sites and a Core Path runs through Loon Braes and along the bank at Riverside.

32.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The Parks are primarily open green space and therefore there is little scope for planting more trees to sequester carbon. Green spaces play an important role in flood and catchment management and help towards the adaption to climate change.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The Parks are an important feature in the local landscape that will attract people to live there.	Low
Community development	The Park is a geographical focus of the local community and is used for sports events. Loon Braes is could be used for 'outside' play areas and the children's park in the Riverside area is an informal meeting area.	Medium
Access and health	Open spaces and woodlands improve physical and mental health. They are naturally therapeutic and have a positive effect on anxiety and depression. Local greenspaces near residential areas are especially important for the elderly or those of limited mobility as they provide a safe space to be outside and closer to nature without having to travel longer distance.	High
Environmental quality	The trees will trap harmful dust particles and absorb gases such as sulphur dioxide	Low

Theme	Aims	Priority
	and ozone. The open space will reduce runoff compared to the surrounding urban environment, provide shade in the summer and reduce windspeeds.	
Biodiversity	The biodiversity value of the grasslands is low and the scattered trees will support a few insect/bird species. The woodland at Loon Braes and the 'riparian' woodlands will support more wildlife.	Low

32.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The trees increase the desirability and attractiveness of living and working in Blairgowrie and Rattray and the sporting opportunities available in Davie Park generate income.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The site provides a wildlife haven and supports the sustainability aims of the community plans. There are a number of 'informal' areas where the community can meet/interact and this, along with the heath and exercise opportunities, supports the Community Plan of having a healthy population.

32.5 Silvicultural Policy

Felling and Thinning

Aside from felling trees that are dead or dying, the only felling to take place will be the gradual removal of the sycamore and Norway maple. This will be undertaken every five years with four to five trees taken out at a time.

Restructuring and New Planting

In the place of felled trees, new native species (oak and small leaved lime) will be planted and protected with tree shelters and stakes.

Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

Species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed will be regularly monitored and controlled if necessary.

Felling Table

Felling Period	Area of Thinning (ha)	Area of Felling (net area) (ha)	Restructuring Area by Successor Crop Types (net area of species, other land to cover open ground) (ha)						
			Sitka Spruce	Other Conifer	Mixed Broadleaves	Native Broadleaves	Caledonian Scots Pine	Natural Regeneration	Other Land
2015	0.1					0.1			
2020	0.1					0.1			
Totals	0.2					0.2			

32.6 Work Plan

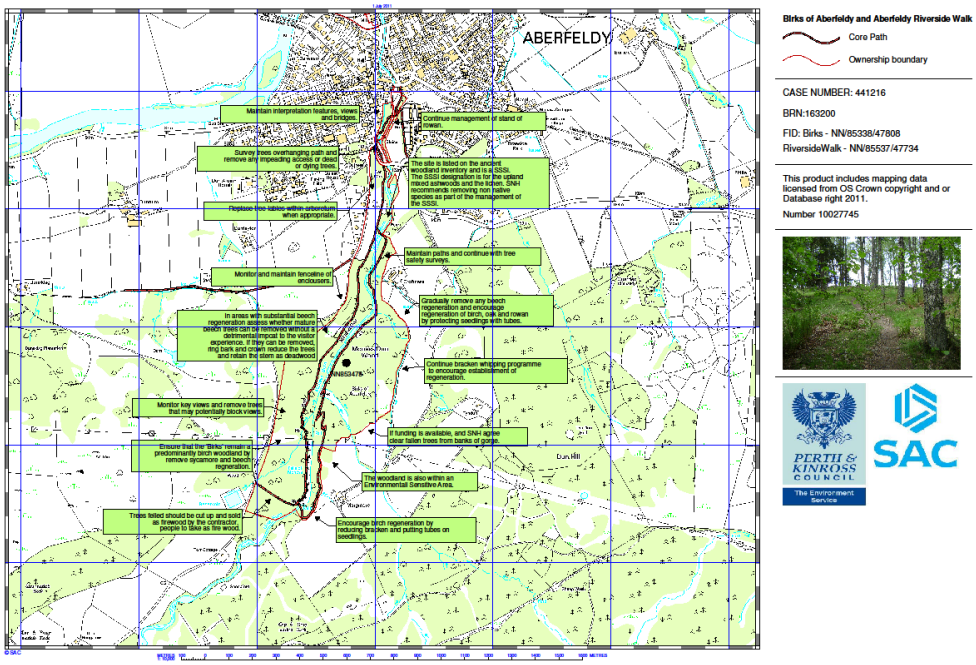
Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 - 2034
Removal of sycamore and Norway maple.											
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.											

32.7 Production Forecast

Felling Period	Volume
2015	Approx 10 m³
2020	Approx 10 m³

33 Birks of Aberfeldy, Riverside and Victoria Park

33.1 Location and Background



Property

The sites are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Birks of Aberfeldy is a wooded gorge that is located to the south of Aberfeldy. The Council ownership covers an area of 41.6 ha which includes the northern section known as the 'Wee Birks' (Riverside) as well as the large Upper Birks. Victoria Park is in the north of the town between the golf course and the River Tay and it is 2.15 ha in area.

Altitude

At its highest point the Birks rise from 105 m above sea level to 260 m above sea level. Victoria Park is approximately 70 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are mainly alluvial deposits and are developing a rich humus layer.

History

There are no trees marked on the 1755 survey map along the Birks but on the 1832 Thompson's map of Scotland the gorge is clearly a woodland, therefore the woodland is at least 170 years old.

The site was gifted to the Council in the early 1960s and since then it has been extensively used for recreation. It is known as the Birks of Aberfeldy after the poem of the same name by Robert Burns who wrote it on a visit to the site in 1787.

Cricket is played in Victoria Park and it is the home ground of Breadalbane Cricket Club. There is also a play park which had a major refurbishment in 2007.

Community Interest

There is a high level of community interest in the site, both from local people and visitors to the area. The link to Robert Burn's 'Birks of Aberfeldy' poem attracts tourists from around the world. There has been some gorge walking in the past and some gold panning activities, although these are fairly uncommon. Mountain bike jumps have been built from banked earth and tree branches and some users feel this is unacceptable. Ongoing discussions are underway to reduce the friction and allow the bikers to enjoy themselves whilst maintaining the integrity of the site.

Victoria Park is well used by all ages and gets busy on hot summer days.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for the Birks to be a predominantly birch woodland and continue to have the SSSI in a favourable condition.

The long term vision of Victoria Park is to continue to offer a high quality greenspace that is enhanced by the trees around the edges.

Management Objectives

The Birks

1) To gradually remove the beech and by removing regeneration and selectively felling or ring barking (if the standing deadwood will not cause a hazard).
2) To encourage regeneration of the birch, oak and rowan by controlling the bracken and controlling deer numbers at a sustainable level as agreed with SNH
3) To open up the canopy in the lower Birks and remove the sycamore.
4) Undertake frequent tree safety inspections.

Victoria Park

1) To undertake tree safety surveys.

2) To monitor the health of the trees planted in 2005.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 21 May and 25 June 2013. Six responses were received all supported the management proposals on the concept maps for the Birks except one person who did not support managing the woodland as continuous cover.

Other points raised were:

1) The grey squirrels should be culled.
2) More Scots pine should be planted.
3) Beech and sycamore should be eradicated.
4) Deer numbers should be controlled.
5) An understory should be developed.

No comments were made on the management proposals for Victoria Park.

The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Site and Species Descriptions

The Birks are divided into five Compartments, with Compartment 1 making up the lower Birks and Compartments 2 to 5, the upper Birks,

The table below gives a description of each Compartment.

Compartment	Area (ha)	Description
1	1.7	A mature mixed broadleaved woodland containing sycamore, oak, birch, willow, alder, rowan and some elm. There is some regeneration along the burnside along with some laurel and snowberry.
2	5.9	This area is dominated by beech, including mature, semi-mature and young trees. There is also a tree trail which consists of a number of exotic species, initially planted as a small arboretum. The trees originally had labels but some of these have come off or been damaged.
3	14.9	This area is predominantly birch and oak, with some aspen, rowan and hazel. There is also a small amount of larch and beech. The majority of the trees are mature or semi mature and there is little regeneration or young trees.
4	10.8	Mature birch dominate this area although there are some beech, larch, rowan and hazel. The understory is predominantly bracken and there are two fenced enclosures that were erected to protect

		seedlings from deer browsing. This seems to be working as there is some regeneration occurring. In addition deer numbers will be controlled as agreed with SNH
5	8.7	Birch is also the key species in this compartment, although there is some open ground and a few non-native species dotted about. The small cow-wheat is found in this area.

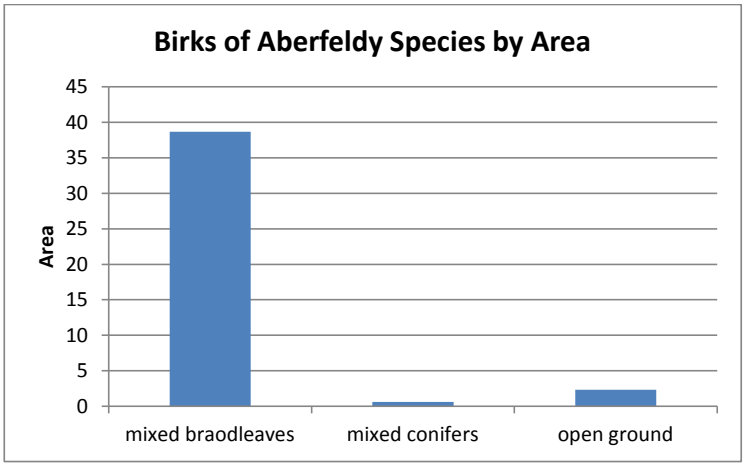
Figure 20: Beech Regeneration amongst the Birch

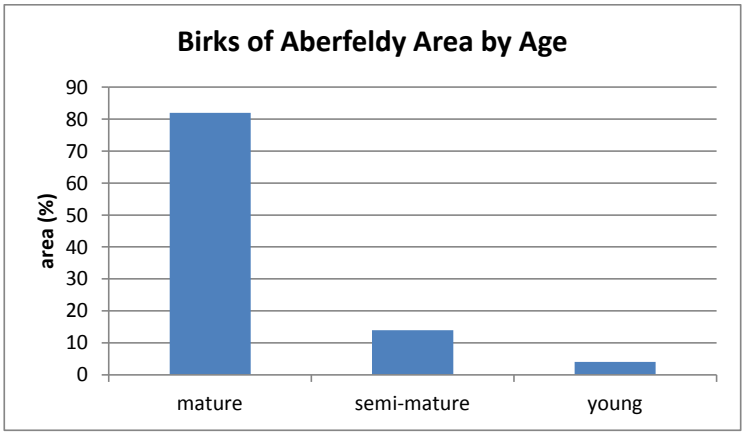
Figure 21: Mature Beech in Compartment 2

Victoria Park is mainly grassland with mature broadleaved trees along the western edge.

Stand Data

The site is well stocked, mainly with mature or semi mature trees. No measurement have been taken of basal areas or stocking densities.





Survey Data

A number of surveys have been undertaken in the past to inform the SSSI designation including ground flora and lichens. In addition, the local bat group have undertaken a bat survey.

A path counter has also been used in the path to gauge visitor numbers and this has shown that highest usage was in the summer with the counter triggered over 5,000 times in August.

33.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

The Falls of Moness are listed as a National Monument of Scotland and the old military road runs across the eastern part of the site.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 18th June 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

In Victoria Park the pavilion is a Listed Building and the Park itself is a Canmore record.

Ecological

The site is listed as a SSSI for its gorge woodland and lichen interest. It is listed as being an upland mixed ash woodland, although the ash component is very low. The ground flora of the Birks, as with other gorge woodlands, is very varied with a large number of rare species. The ground flora of the gorge section ranges from dog's mercury to creeping soft-grass and herbs in more open areas, with male fern in the steepest areas. Closer to the burn the ground flora includes wood melick, hedge woundwort and wood chickweed. The woodland has a high number of species present and includes the nationally scarce small cow-wheat and lesser hairy brome.
There are a large number of lichen species growing here including twenty two which are nationally scarce in the UK. The lichens present include a combination of oceanic and continental species which may be due to the relative east west centrality of the site combined with humid conditions in the gorge of the Moness Burn.

The Birks of Aberfeldy SSSI is also an important habitat for breeding birds including pied flycatcher and green woodpecker, as well as an important over-wintering site for brambling, redwing and fieldfare.

Below the Falls of Moness the burn forms part of the River Tay Special Area of Conservation for Atlantic salmon, otter, brook lamprey, sea lamprey and river lamprey. [4]

There is also a healthy population of red squirrels, a UK BAP species.

There are no ecological designations on Victoria Park.

Herbivore

There are high numbers of roe deer that are preventing regeneration. There is also evidence of rabbits.

[4] Taken from SNH SSSI Birks of Aberfeldy site information

Social

There have been some complaints about people gorge walking and gold 'mining', although there have not been any studies undertaken as to how often this happens and what damage it causes.

These are occasionally complaints made about litter left at Victoria Park and dog mess on the cricket pitch.

Public Access

There are two linked car parks with access from the A826 with parking for around 30 cars. The paths are designated Core Paths, with the path to the west in good condition. The path to the east of the river can be uneven in places and requires upgrading. Due to steps, the steepness and narrowness the path is only suitable for walkers and is currently unsuitable for wheelchair users, pushchairs, mountain bikes and horses.

The path through the lower Birks is generally level and suitable for a range of users although the bridge and access onto the A826 will prevent the less able, cyclists and horse riders egressing onto the A826.

33.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The carbon sequestration potential is nearly reached within the woodland, although the wood is part of a larger forest habitat network which will aid the potential migration of species caused by climate change.	Low
Timber	Timber will not be removed from site. Instead it will be left as deadwood.	Low
Business development	The Birks are an important tourist attraction, and the connection with Robert Burns means the Birks is a destination in its own right.	Medium
Community development	The path is not suitable for all users and the steepness of the site may discourage those less able. The presence of rare species will attract people with an interest in botany and natural history.	Low
Access and health	The site is an attractive woodland to visit and will encourage people to exercise in the outdoors. The views and history of the site give a sense of place, in turn, improving mental health. The play park at Victoria Park is a great place for children to burn off energy and cricket can be enjoyed by all ages.	High

Theme	Aims	Priority
Environmental quality	The woodland surrounding the burn will reduce lag time.	Medium
Biodiversity	The site is a SSSI in favourable condition and has a healthy red squirrel population (a UK BAP species). There are a number of rare vascular plants and lichens. The silvicultural policy of removing non-native plants will only increase its biodiversity value. Moness Burn is a special area of conservation (SAC) and the woodland provides an ideal habitat for otters.	High

33.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The Birks of Aberfeldy give the community of Aberfeldy a strong identity and a sense of history and who they are. This in turn creates confidence and encourages 'ownership' of the area. Promoting a strong identity is at the heart of the Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

One of the three principles of the Community Plan is sustainability. The Birks provides a natural tourist attraction that is also a SSSI and the balance of visitor and rare species is working well.

33.5 Silvicultural Policy

To manage as a continuous cover birch forest that celebrates the landscape, enhances biodiversity and provides a high quality setting for visitors and residents to enjoy.

Felling and Thinning

The only thinning to be undertaken is the gradual removal of beech. This will be undertaken over the period of the Plan with two felling periods in the first ten years. The removal will be undertaken by three methods:

1) Trees away from paths will be ring barked and left as standing deadwood
2) Trees near paths, that will not destabilise the banks/slopes if removed, should be felled and cut up and left as habitat piles/'natural play' structures
3) Trees that are stabilising banks/slopes should have their crowns reduced and be under planted with shade tolerant or semi shade tolerant native species such as

rowan. Once the under planted trees are successfully established the tree can be removed. Compartment 3 will not have its beech removed in this Forest Plan.

Felling will take place every five years with around 20 m³ removed during each felling period. This will remove enough to move on the transition towards a native woodland, but not enough to create a lot of large gaps in the canopy.

Regeneration in compartment one will also be periodically thinned out to give existing trees more space and nutrients, and to open up the area to make it lighter and less intimidating for walkers.

There will not be any thinning or felling at Victoria Park.

Restructuring and New Planting

Natural regeneration of birch will be encouraged to replace removed beech; this will be protected by controlling deer numbers. If within 5 years there are insufficient levels of natural regeneration of Birch following deer control and the removal of Beech the Council will discuss the planting of Birch in the area with SNH and FCS.

There will not be any new planting at Victoria Park.

Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

Monitor and treat with herbicide. Also, bracken will be whipped periodically in Compartments 3 and 4 to aid establishment of regeneration.

Summary of Felling, Thinning and Restructuring

Felling Period	Area of Thinning (ha)	Area of Felling (net area) (ha)	Restructuring Area by Successor Crop Types (net area of species, other land to cover open ground) (ha)						
			Sitka Spruce	Other Conifer	Mixed Broadleaves	Native Broadleaves	Caledonian Scots Pine	Natural Regeneration	Other Land
2015	0.6							0.6	
2020	0.6							0.6	
Totals	1.2							1.2	

33.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033

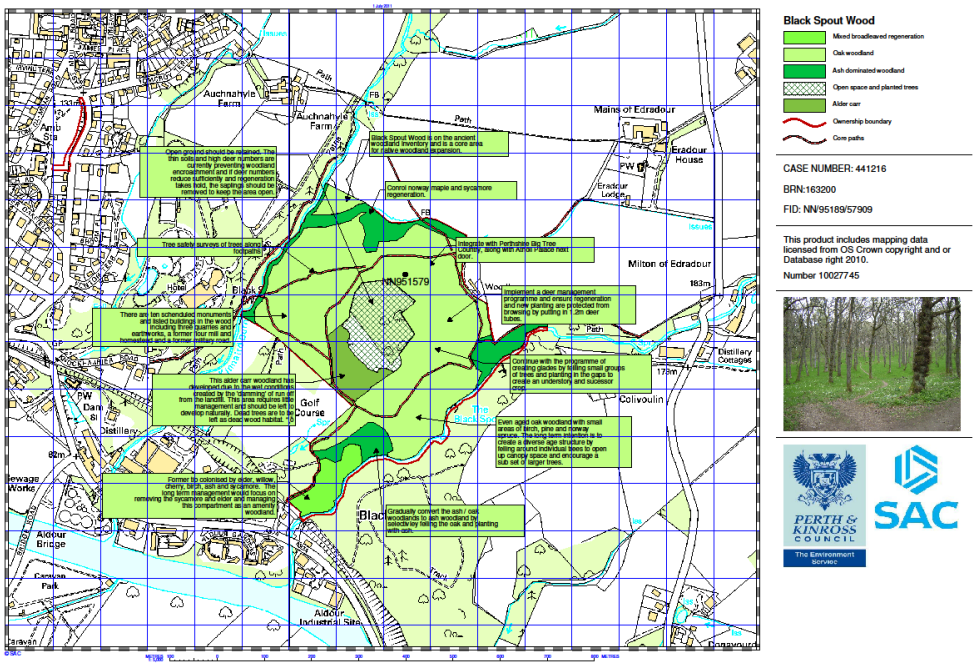
Removal of non-native trees.										
Bracken whipping.										

33.7 Production Forecast

Year	Volume
2015	20 m^3
2020	20 m^3

34 Black Spout Wood

34.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is part-owned by Perth and Kinross Council and part-leased from Pitlochry Estates. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Black Spout wood is located at the south eastern end of Pitlochry Estates on the slopes of Tummel Valley and covers an area of 21.9 ha of which 18.4 ha is owned by the Council and 3.5 ha is leased from Pitlochry Estate.

Altitude

At its highest point the Wood is at 140 m above sea level – the lowest is 90 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are predominantly brown forest soils that are freely draining with some small gleyed pockets throughout the wood.

History

The wood is clearly seen on the 1755 maps and remains a wood on all the maps until present day, making it one of the oldest mapped woodlands in Perthshire. It has therefore been permanently wooded for at least 250 years. It is categorised as ancient semi-natural woodland.

The following features are apparent from the 1862 and 1899 maps.

- The extent/boundaries of the woodland are very similar to the present. The dykes shown at the boundaries of the property are still visible today.
- There is a small clearing in the wood west of Woodhouse.
- In 1862 there is a Farina Mill at the entrance to the wood presumably powered by Edradour Burn.
- In 1899 the Farina mill has gone and is replaced by Aldour Quarry (plus several 'old quarries').
- In 1862 the following tracks through the wood exist: down from Woodhouse; up beside the Edradour Burn to Black Spout; and from Coilvoulin to Woodhouse via a ford above Black Spout. By 1899 most of the main paths in the wood are present, except in the lower (leased) part of the wood which is occupied by Aldour Quarry. This suggests a period of path creation coinciding with the building of the major hotels in Pitlochry.

- The area in the centre of the wood currently occupied by the landfill site is scattered large conifers with a large element of open space i.e. little deciduous woodland.
- Larger deciduous trees are confined to near the entrance and occasional ones beside the Kinnaird Burn. There are no obvious signs of 'standard trees' having been left in the coppice crop.
- The oak coppice is well stocked except for a strip running up the wood to the north of the tip, which has many gaps.
- The powerline wayleave is apparent.[5]

History of Timber Management

The wood appears to have been last cut in about 1915 and the trees are about 95 years old. Following this cutting, the coppice shoots were singled to give a wood which now has largely 'maiden' trees rather than multi-stemmed coppice trees. Thinning may have been carried out in the first half of the 20th century, but the wood does not appear to have been thinned in recent decades. This history is similar to most local oakwoods. Since 1989 there

[5] taken from the Black Spout Wood management plan 2008 - 2021

has been a useful programme of management aimed at diversifying the structure and composition of the wood.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the wood would have been managed for tanbark and coppice poles – usually on a cycle of 20 to 28 years. Establishment of such woodland usually took the form of 'enhancing' and expanding existing oakwoods – a process in which oak monocultures were cultivated by cutting out other species and planting oak onto 'non-oak' (usually ash woodland) sites.

History of Quarrying

Quarrying of stone and gravel in the southernmost part of the wood appears to have started between 1862 and 1874 to supply stone for buildings being erected in Pitlochry following the arrival of the railway. Some of the stone for the Atholl Palace Hotel is known to have originated here; likewise sand and gravel for the construction of the railway northwards to Inverness. In 1957 a second quarry was developed in the centre of the wood extending to 2.2 ha, with the primary aim of providing a landfill site for the town of Pitlochry.

History of Tipping

The area near the entrance (Compartment 12) was used both formally and informally as a tip starting around the turn of the century and is referred to as the 'Victorian tip'. This has never been restored (though it was landscaped in 1989), but has been allowed to revegetate naturally; a process which has only been partially successful. The area is still visited by bottle collectors, causing unsightly erosion. The landfill in the centre of the wood (Compartment 6) operated from 1958 until 1987 – and regularly saw 15,000 tonnes of domestic and trade waste being dumped annually. Starting in 1988 it was restored under a joint initiative between the Council and local community interests. This involved addition of topsoil and planting with a mixture of broadleaved trees.

The wood has a long history of settlement as demonstrated by the homestead site located on the edge of the Edradour Burn. This is a circular enclosure of around 20 m in diameter bounded by a stone-built wall that would have contained substantial timber buildings. Such settlements usually date to between the late Iron Age and the Early Medieval period.

Community Interest

There is a high level of interest and usage of the site. The paths are well used and form part of the Core Path network. The Iron Age homestead was excavated by volunteers from the Heritage Trust. Interpretation of the history of the site should be installed.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 21 May 2013. No comments were made and no comments were submitted online in response to the concept map. From the correspondence received, SEPA and the RSPB asked for UKWAS guidelines to be followed. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for an attractive native woodland that is well used by the public.

Management Objectives

1) To increase structural diversity by selective thinning.
2) Increase tree species diversity and encourage a shrub layer.
3) Control Norway maple and sycamore.
4) Sell some of the better quality oaks.
5) Control invasive ground flora.
6) Enhance the recreational potential of the wood.
7) Enhance the appearance of the wood.
8) Increase interpretation.

Site and Species Descriptions

The woodland can be categorised into three distinct areas:

1) Ancient semi-natural woodland (82% of area).
2) Recently planted broadleaved woodland on the landfill site (12% of area).
3) Areas of naturally seeded trees and shrubs on the smaller areas of tipping near the entrance (6% of area).

Ancient Semi-natural Woodland

Ancient semi-natural woodland extends to 16.8 ha and accounts for 82% of the area. The woodland comprises largely oak-birch woodland (W11, a little W17 – National Vegetation Classifications); with a little ash woodland (W9) and alder-ash wet woodland (W7) in hollows and along watercourses.

Oak-birch woodland occurs across almost the entire wood. The canopy is oak-dominated, with a small but noticeable component of birch. Other native tree and shrub species include: aspen, occasional ash saplings, hazel and broom. Hazel and broom are found mainly on steep slopes beside the watercourses, presumably where grazing pressure is less. Rowan and holly occur mainly as seedlings. There is a scattering of large old Scots pine and Norway spruce.

The trees appear to be in fairly good condition, though they have small crowns and correspondingly small diameter stems as a result of the relatively high stocking levels. The lack of larger trees reduces the ecological value of the wood because trees with spreading crowns provide micro-habitats for epiphytic plants, lichens and deadwood invertebrates as the trees age. There is very little standing deadwood and regeneration is generally unsuccessful.

There are a few small areas of group felling and thinning which were done under the previous woodland plan to provide possible sites for establishing young trees and shrubs to give greater age diversity). Species planted included Scots pine, hazel, holly, rowan, birch, and cherry although many of these have died.

A small area of oak and ash woodland to the south west of the site, and the ground flora, suggests that this used to be a predominantly ash woodland. There is also some elm, goat willow, bird cherry and hazel. There are also some polestage sycamore trees, some of which are seeding.

Alder-ash woodland (W7) developing into an alder carr woodland occurs in two small patches of seasonally waterlogged level ground beside the Kinnaird Burn. Alder trees also appear sporadically at the margins of the Edradour and Kinnaird Burns.

Planted Woodland on Landfill

Some planting took place on the restored tip in 1989 and a large number of these have died. An area has also been left as open ground. Some regeneration is taking place, especially willow and alder.

Naturally Seeded Trees and Shrubs on Victorian Tip Areas

The area has an uneven cover of shrubs and trees including: elder (which is widespread), goat willow, bird cherry, silver and downy birch, sycamore, ash, and aspen. In addition hazel and cherry have been planted near the car park. Most of these trees are fairly young (20 to 40 years).

Figure 21: The Oaks at Black Spout Wood

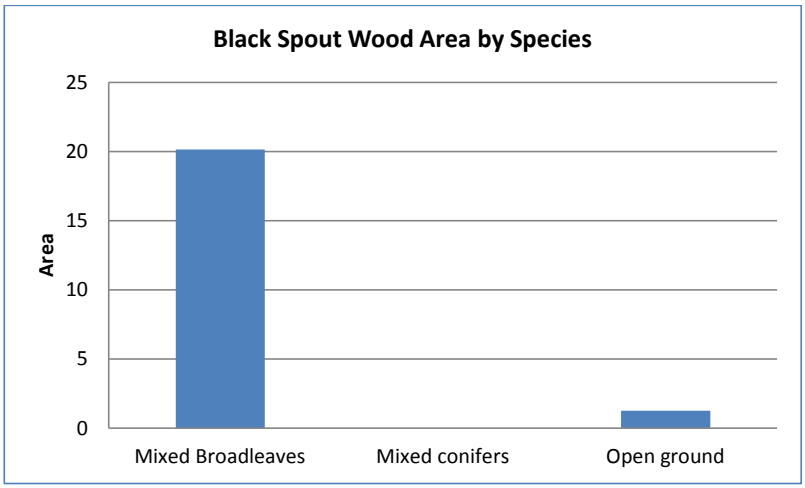
Figure 22: The Former Tip

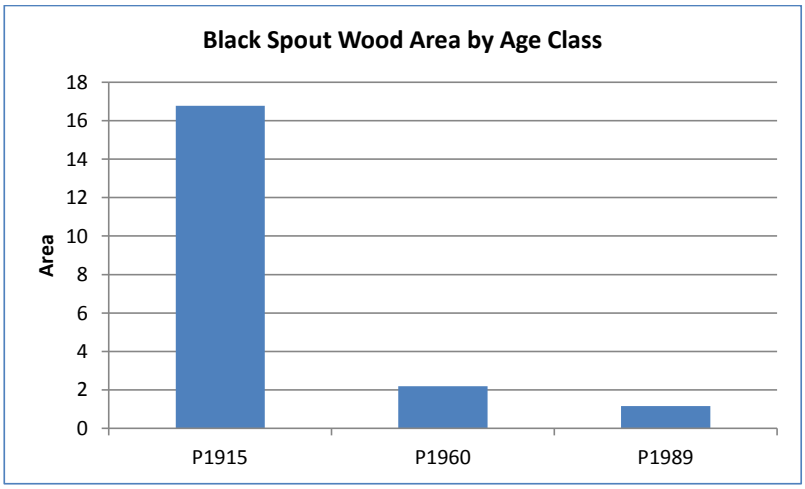
Stand Data

The oak stands are about 95 to 100 years old and are uniform in age and with little variation in size – though larger trees occur in places where the stocking is lower. The stands are generally well stocked, though there are occasional gaps. Trees are generally 20 to 24 m tall with diameters mainly in the range 25 to 40 cm (averaging close to 30 cm) but

with a scattering of individual trees up 50 to 60 cm. It is relatively slow growing (Yield Class 4).

Woodland type	**Species and woodland type**	**Compartment Number**	**Area (ha)**	**Yield Class**	**Percentage**	**P year.**
Ancient semi-natural woodland	Oak – birch (W11)	2a	7.11	4		1915
	Oak-birch (W11, some W17)	4	6.12	4		1915
	Ash (W9)	5a	0.83	6		1915
	Ash (W9) with oak overstorey	2b, 2c, 5b	1.58	6		1915
	Alder carr	3	1.15	4		Unknown
Total			*16.79*		*82%*	
Planted native woodland on landfill	Oak, birch, hazel, ash, poplar, alder	6a	1.54	4		1989
Regeneration/planting beside landfill	Alder, goat willow, downy birch	6b	0.66	4		1989
Open space on landfill		6c	0.25	4		
Total planted on landfill				2.54	12%	
Naturally seeded native trees and shrubs on Victorian tip	Elder, birch, goat willow	1a	0.54			c.1960
	Elder, bird cherry, sycamore, ash, alder	1b	0.61			c. 1960
Total			*1.15*	*6%*		
Total				*20.39*		





Survey Data

Two surveys have previously been undertaken: flora (including mosses and liverworts) in 2008 and birds and mammals also in 2008. These are attached as Appendix B.

34.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Landscape

The woodland does not have any landscape designations on it, although it is an attractive feature on the landscape. The SNH Landscape Character Assessment for the area considers the mosaic of woodlands and agricultural land to be a key feature. Black Spout Wood is not

visible from Pitlochry town and is partly visible from Dunfallandy, the Fonab Caravan park and the section of the A9 as it crosses the Strath.

The main landscape challenge will be to increase the area with a varied age structure, whilst maintaining the open feel of the woodland. In addition, views out to the surrounding countryside should be maintained and there are five key viewing sites within the wood that should be kept free from undergrowth and regeneration. These are marked on the concept map.

The management proposals will have negligible effect on the landscape value of the wood due to the small scale works proposed and the long timescales the work will be undertaken over.

Archaeological

There are three historic monuments in Black Spout Wood:

Black Spout Homestead (NGR: NN 9523 5768)

1. Farina Mills (Flour mill) (NGR: NN 95063 57590).
2. Aldour Quarry / Black Spout Wood Quarries (Sandstone5 quarry) (NGR: NN 95204 57645)

Comment [JS4]:

Along with the waterfall, two dams and the bridge from the hotel which are RCAHMS sites.

Ecological

The woodland is a climax oak woodland and as such supports a wide variety of ground flora, lichens, mosses, invertebrates and birds and mammals. This is to be maintained, and enhanced, by creating a slightly more varied age structure in the oaks.

Herbivore

Squirrels (both grey and red) are present in the wood and there is a significant population of roe deer. There are also foxes and rabbits resident in the wood.

The deer cause significant damage to the young trees and are preventing regeneration and limited in the aim of having a varied age structure. Deer numbers will be controlled as discussed with SNH.

Social

There are few anti-social problems here. A small amount of litter is left on site.

Public Access

There is a high level of public access, both as circular walks within the wood and as a part of longer walks that cut though the wood. The paths are of a fair quality, and three have been

designated as Core Paths, although there are no 'all ability' paths within the wood. There is a public car-park at the entrance to the wood.

34.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The oaks that are felled should be used as beams or furniture and will therefore retain the carbon within, however as this is a climax wood at the point of maximum mean annual volume increment the carbon sequestration plateaued.	Low
Timber	Oak wood is attractive and attracts a high premium, with trees that are suitable as oak beams getting the highest prices. The amount felled will be low, at most 10 m^3 year.	Medium
Business development	The site is well used by visitors and locals and adds to the attractiveness of Pitlochry. Many people visit the area for the landscape and the views and Black Spout wood is a key landscape feature.	Medium
Community development	There are a number of local naturalists who enjoy and study the woods.	Low
Access and health	Walking in the woods is good for mental and physical health and the network of paths through the wood makes it an interesting place to spend time in.	Medium
Environmental quality	The interception of precipitation reduces surface run off and reduces the risk of flooding downstream. Woodlands also absorb noise and the audio impact of the A9 will be reduced by the presence of the woodland.	Medium
Biodiversity	110 species of ground flora and 17 ferns and horsetails have been recorded on the site. W11 (Oak woodlands) are a key habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and this type of oak woodland is a climax woodland with a strong associated woodland floral community.	High

34.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The management of Black Spout Wood as an attractive, accessible, ecologically important woodland that also provides some high quality timber for local markets helps the Council achieve objective three of its corporate plan: to build a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive economy. In addition it also provides a natural space for exercise and community interaction which supports objective five: to support a confident, active and inclusive community.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Of the three key aims of the Community Plan, building a vibrant and successful area is at the heart of the management of Black Spout Wood. It supports tourism, increases the desirability of Pitlochry as a place to live and will provide local timber merchants with a supply of locally grown oak.

34.5 Silvicultural Policy

To continue managing the wood as a continuous cover oak woodland.

Management objectives are:

- To increase structural diversity by selective thinning.
- To also encourage appropriate sub species such as ash, rowan and pine.
- To control Norway maple and sycamore.

Standard Forestry Practice

Oak stands of yield class 4 usually reach the age of maximum mean annual increment at around 95 years. This point defines the maximum average rate of volume increment which a stand of trees can achieve. At this point, in theory, if a stand of trees were repeatedly felled, and replanted there will be no loss of site productivity. This site is not to be managed on a clear fell regime, so we then have to consider thinning.

Good practice is to first thin oaks when they reach around 10 m top height and to take out around 70% of the yield annually. 70% of the yield is regarded as the marginal thinning intensity which is the maximum annual volume/ha that can be taken out without incurring any loss of cumulative volume production.

As the stand has been thinned in the past, but there are no records of the volumes taken out, it should be managed to this standard practice in order to maintain the integrity of the timber in the wood.

This would mean that around 14 m^3/ha should be taken out on a five year thinning cycle. However, because the oaks are fairly widely spaced and a heavy thin would probably be unpopular with visitors/users of the wood this should be reduced to 6 m^3/ha. By doing this

not only is Black Spout Wood being managed for what it was originally planted for, but it also achieves the other management objectives at the same time.

Felling and Thinning

With an average dbh of 30 cm (and volume of 0.6 m^3), approximately three mature oak trees should be removed per hectare every five years. This is around 40 trees in total. Trees of good form should be selected and the operation should be managed as an open market standing sale with the trees to be felled marked beforehand. If possible, selling the wood as firewood/biomass should be avoided.

Around 15 sycamore trees should also be taken down per felling period.

All forest operation should be managed in line with UKWAS guidelines.

Due to the uncertainties over the Chalara outbreak, the oak overstory in the ash woodland areas should not be removed. These areas should be left to develop naturally with little intervention

Restructuring and New Planting

The gaps created should be replanted with oaks grown from acorns collected on site. This could be a community activity undertaken with local schools/scouts/guides. In the spaces of each felled tree, three oaks should be planted and protected with 1.2 m tree shelters and stakes.

34.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Collect and grow on acorns.											
Selectively fell 6 m^3/ha from comps 2a and 4.											
Remove sycamore.											
Plant/protect											

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
regeneration of oak, pine and rowan.											
Remove rubbish and any tree shelters that are no longer required.											

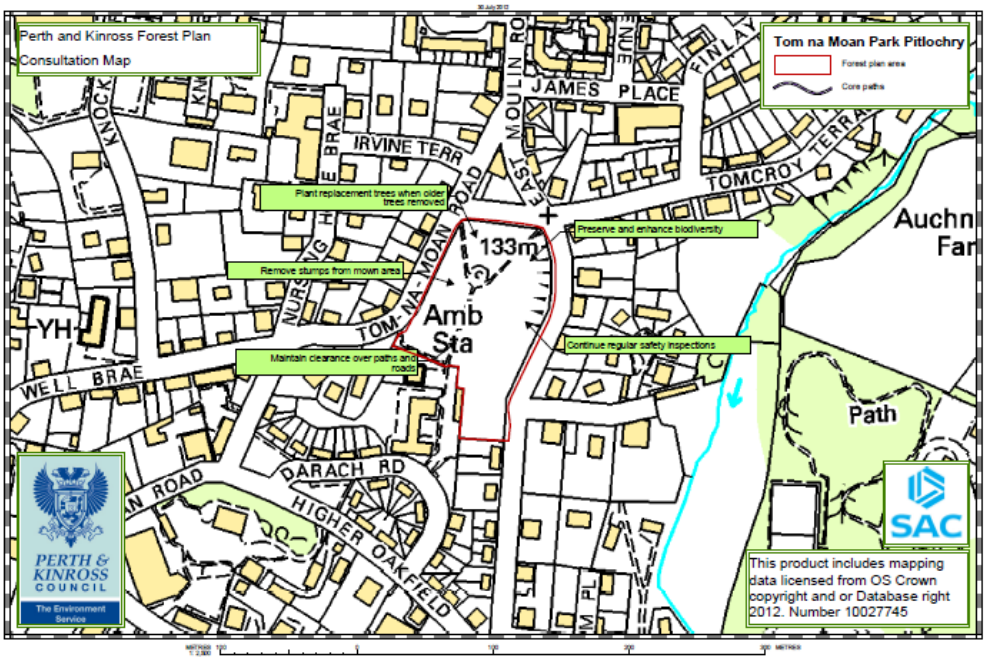
34.7 Production Forecast

Year	Oak	Sycamore
2013	0	0
2014	0	0
2015	25 m^3*	10 m^3
2016	0	0
2017	0	0
2018	0	0
2019	0	0
2020	25 m^3	10 m^3
2021	0	0
2022	0	0
2023	0	0

* Overbark

35 Tom na Moan Park, Pithlochry

35.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Tom na Moan park is situated just north of the centre of Pitlochry, between Tom na Moan Road and East Moulin Road. It covers an area of 1.11ha.

Altitude

The park is 140 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are brown forest soils.

History

The parkland area had previously been grazing and cropping fields. In the 1960s the housing to the south of the park was built, with the park created soon after.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is to continue to manage the site as an amenity green space and maintain the same level of tree cover.

Management Objectives

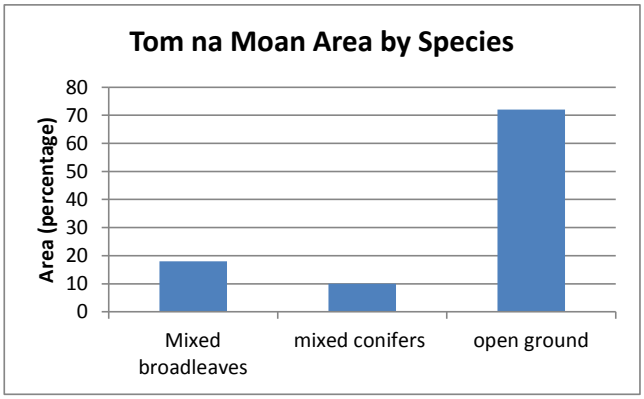
1) Continue to manage as amenity green space with regular grass cutting programme.
2) Leave tree stumps in-situ for children to play on.
3) Monitor the trees for signs of disease.

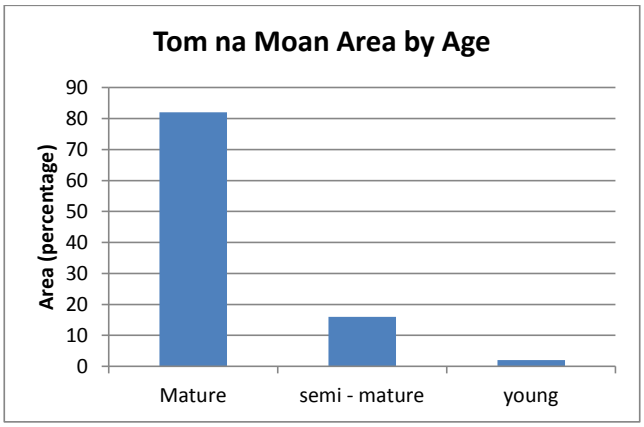
Site and Species Descriptions

Mixed broadleaved trees, mainly in a strip along the eastern boundary with East Moulin Road. Other individual broadleaved and a handful of conifers trees dotted about the park sporadically.

Figure 23: Tom na Moan Park

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

35.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no historical sites or designations in or near the site.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations for the site, nor any UK BAP species.

Herbivore

There are rabbits, mice and squirrels in the Park.

Social

Pitlochry in Bloom is active in managing the parks of Pitlochry of which Tom na Moan is one. A new children's play park has been installed and this is popular and attracting more people to the Park.

Public Access

There are a number of paths for all uses that crisscross the park.

35.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The trees are a carbon store.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The trees add texture and colour to the town and increase its attractiveness as a tourist destination.	Low
Community development	The Pitlochry in Bloom team are heavily involved in the green spaces of Pitlochry, of which Tom na Moan Park is one.	Medium
Access and health	The Park is used by local people for exercise.	Medium
Environmental quality	The trees will intercept rainfall and reduce surface runoff in the area, they also provide shade from the sun.	Low
Biodiversity	The trees create small microclimates for lichens and insects, which in turn provide food for birds.	Low

35.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Tom na Moan Park increases the desirability of the town as a pleasant place to live and work.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Maintaining a high quality amenity green space will give local residents an opportunity to lead active lives.

35.5 Silvicultural Policy

To maintain the current levels of tree cover and to replace any that are removed due to disease or death.

Felling and Thinning

No felling or thinning is planned.

35.6 Work Plan

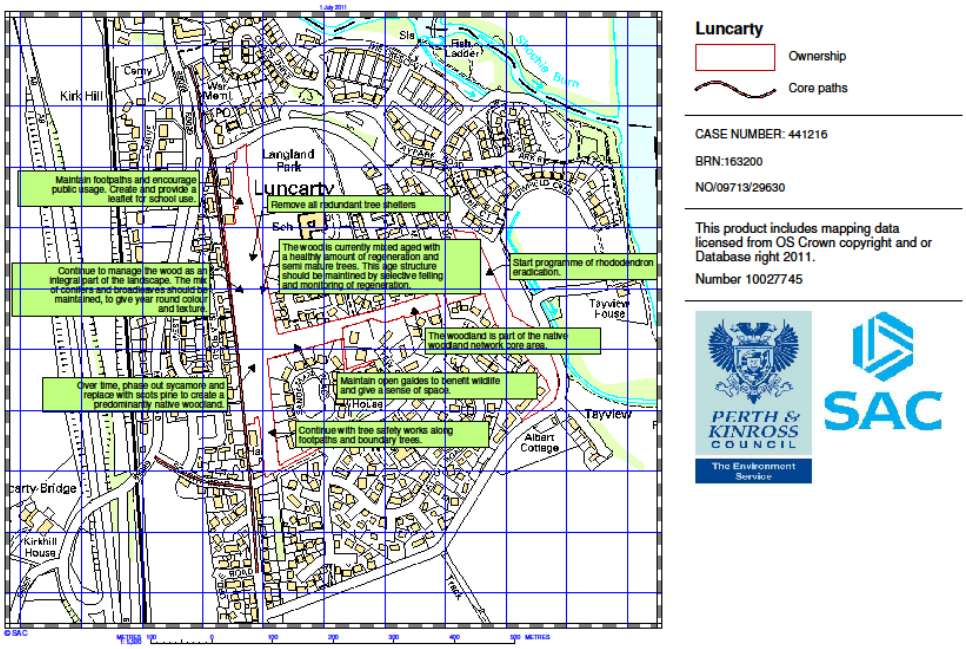
Activity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 - 2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.											

35.7 Production Forecast

Not applicable.

36 Luncarty Woods

36.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Luncarty Woods are located in the village of Luncarty. The woods are distributed in three connected strips in the centre of the village, forming a rough H shape. They cover an area of 3.58 ha.

Altitude

The highest point is 20 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are predominantly Corby – a free draining podzol with high gravel derived from highland rocks. The eastern part of the wood is on alluvial deposits.

History

Luncarty Woods are shown on the 1755 maps; they are planted woodlands for Luncarty House. Therefore they are one of the oldest woodlands in Perthshire. The area has been developed and the woods are now bounded on all sides by development. There are no designated sites within the woodland area.

Community Interest

The community uses the woodlands a lot for walking, dog walking and as a route through the village. In addition, tree planting days with the adjacent primary school have taken place.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 28 May 2013. Seven people commented and of the management proposals on the concept map, one person did not support producing a leaflet, one person did not support maintaining open glades or removing the rhododendron. In addition the following points were made:

1) Selective felling should be undertaken to improve light into neighbouring properties.
2) Benches, play facilities, and bins should be installed along with an interpretation board.
3) Native woodland flowers should be planted in glades.

The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is to develop the woodlands into mixed aged, mixed species woodlands that provide a 'green lung' to the village of Luncarty and provide amenity and wildlife habitats.

Management Objectives

1) To remove the rhododendron.
2) Install two bins and an interpretation board.
3) Fell two mature trees to create gaps for regeneration and to use as a 'natural' seat.
4) Continue with tree safety surveys.

Site and Species Descriptions

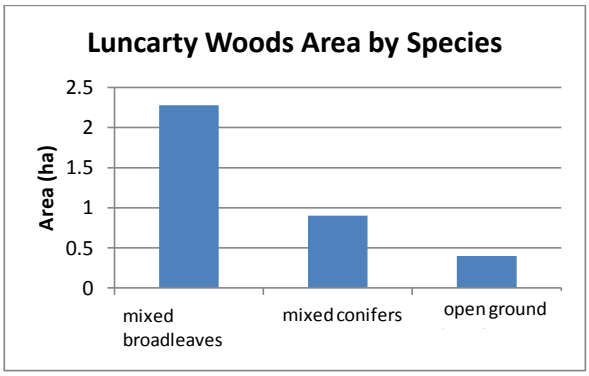
Compartment	**Area (ha)**	**Description**

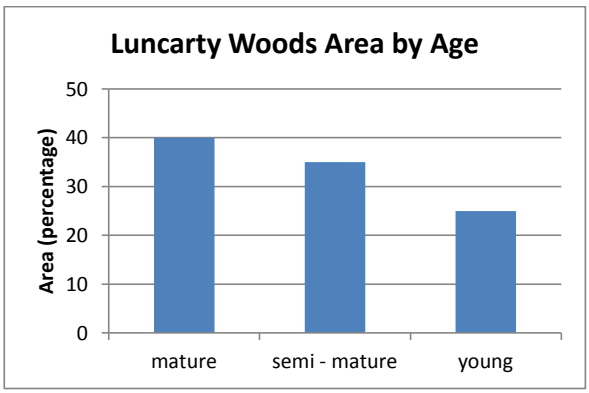
1	0.01	A predominantly sycamore block with a few larch and beech. Most of the trees are around 55 to 65 years old and some of the sycamore have been coppiced in the past and are now mature multi stemmed trees of poor quality timber.
2	1.65	Oak woodland with few beech, sycamore and cherry. There are also a few spruce trees .The oak and beech are mature and the other species vary in age from young to mature. There is a lot of regeneration of beech,ash and sycamore, but not much of oak. There is a section (0.16 ha) to the north of recently planted native trees, predominantly oak, birch, ash and hazel.
3	0.15	A strip of mainly mature Douglas fir. Sparse with a shrub layer developing.
4	0.72	A very mixed strip of woodland containing mature mixed broadleaves (beech, oak, sycamore, ash), mature conifers (Scots pine, Norway spruce, western hemlock and grand and nobel fir) semi mature broadleaves (cherry, alder, lime rowan and scots pine) and natural regeneration of sycamore ash and beech. Also a few areas of rhododendron.
5	1.05	Similar to Compartment 4 in species and age with a strong level of regeneration.

Figure 24: The path at Luncarty

Figure 25: Ash Regeneration at Luncarty

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

36.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no statutory designations on this site.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on this site and no recorded BAP species.

Herbivore

Due to the high level of regeneration there is not a problem from deer browsing. There is some evidence of rabbits and voles.

Social

Apart from the school helping with the tree planting in 2007 there is little formal community development associated with Luncarty Woods.

Public Access

There is a high level of public access within the woods, mainly for walking and dog walking. There are 11 entry/exit points across the five Compartments.

36.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	The woods and soils contain a high amount of carbon and encouraging a strong under story will increase the carbon stored in the woodland.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The woods improve the landscape of Luncarty and enhance its appeal as a pleasant place to live.	Low
Community development	The school has been involved in tree planting.	High
Access and health	The paths that cut through the woods are well used by local people and give the opportunity for short local walks that will improve physical and mental health.	Medium
Environmental quality	The woodlands are a key feature in the landscape and provide a green view from	Medium

	many areas of the village. They also absorb noise and provide shade in the summer.	
Biodiversity	The woodlands provide a habitat for wildlife in semi urban area and they are part of the native woodland core area.	Medium

36.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The management of Luncarty woods predominantly supports Objective five of the Corporate Plan 'A confident, active and inclusive community' by providing a footpath that links with others to encourage exercise and outdoors activity.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

A 'healthy' community is encouraged by the provision of a footpath network around Luncarty, of which Luncarty woods form part.

36.5 Silvicultural Policy

Continuous cover forestry with removal of dead and dying trees when required. As the canopy is already open, and regeneration high, then selective felling is not required.

Felling and Thinning

Aside from felling a couple of trees to make 'natural' seats and natural play equipment no felling will be under taken.

The rhododendron should be cleared by using stem injections, with the dead and dying stems cut and removed from site. Signs should be put in place to inform residents why it is being under taken.

Restructuring and New Planting

Restructuring will be with natural regeneration which is already successful on site.

36.6 Work Plan

Activity	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024 - 2034**
Removal of Rhododendro											

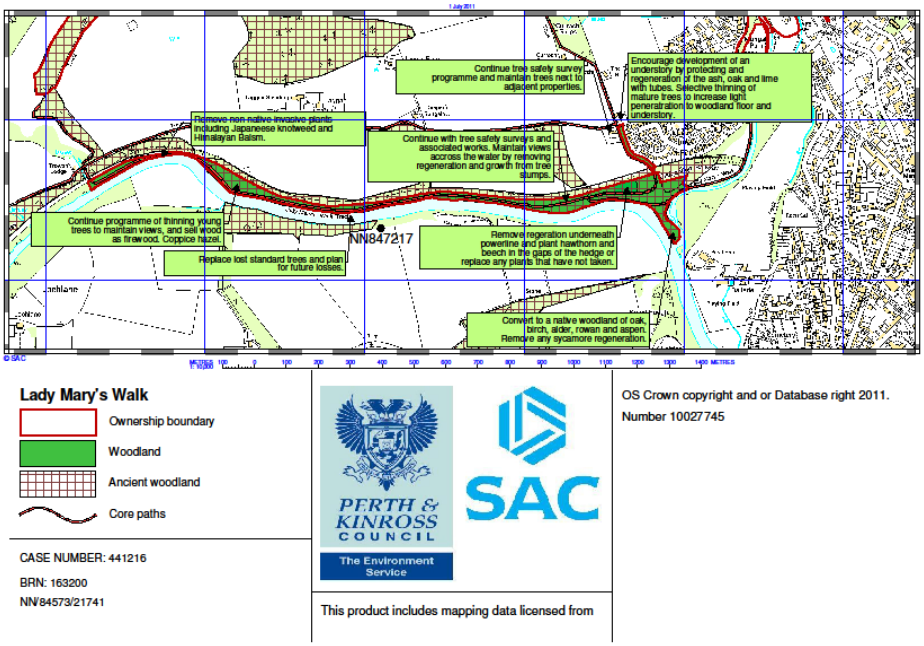
n.											
Felling of two trees to make a seat and play structures.											
Monitor trees and remove dead and dying.											

36.7 Production Forecast

Not applicable.

37 Lady Mary's Walk

37.1 Location and Background



Property

The property is owned by Perth and Kinross Council; the margins of the river, for 1 m width, are owned by Lochlane and Laggan Ltd who have the riparian rights. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Lady Mary's Walk covers an area of 6.5 ha, the majority of which runs in an east west direction along the northern bank of the River Earn. A section runs north south along the back of the houses of Highland Crescent. The 'walk' in the title refers to the linear walk beside the River Earn and Turret Burn that connects Crieff to the countryside to the west of the town.

Altitude

The maximum altitude in Lady Mary's Walk is 50 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are alluvial deposits.

History

There are trees running at least part the way along the Northern banks of the River Earn on the 1753 maps, and there is clearly woodland between the railway line and the river on the 1893 survey. It was named after Lady Mary by her father Sir Patrick Murray of Ochtertyre who opened it to the people of Crieff in 1825.

Community Interest

The walk is well used by members of the public.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 4 June 2013. Six people commented on the proposals for Lady Mary's Walk. The proposals for removing the Himalayan balsam and the sycamore were not supported by one individual, and the proposal for maintaining views was also not supported by one person. An additional comment was made requesting that there should be tighter controls on dogs because they disturb wildlife, disrupt fishing and leave mess behind. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is a high quality woodland trail, open to everyone, where users can get up close and personal to trees.

Management Objectives

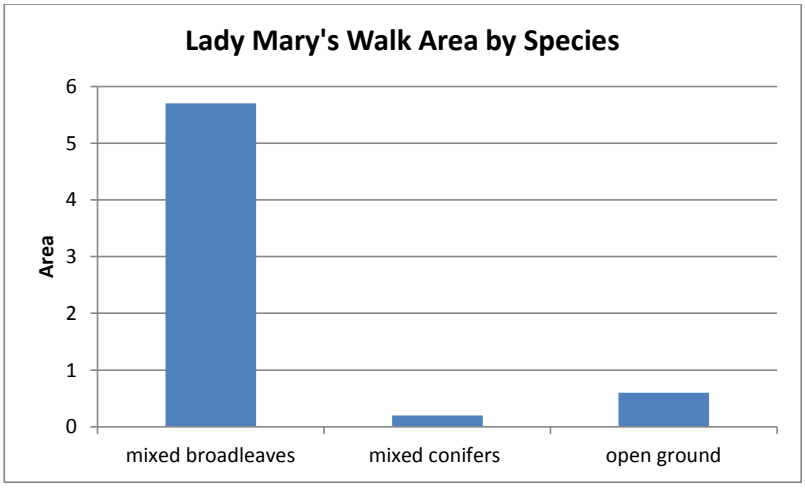
1) Continue to retain the tree cover, especially the large specimen trees.
2) Open up the views along the river.
3) Celebrate the range of tree species and ages.
4) Undertake regular tree safety surveys.

Site and Species Descriptions

There are three main areas within the wood. The first is the strip running north south behind the houses of Highland Crescent and this is made up of mature and semi-mature ash, oak, beech, sycamore, lime and sweet chestnut. There is also a healthy understory dominated by blackthorn. The second area is a real mix and includes the area of open ground under the power line, the beech hedge, a small area of conifers (Larch and scots pine) and a section dominated by mature beech and oak with some lime and ash. The third area stretches along the river and includes many attractive mature trees such as oak, lime and sweet chestnut. There is also a significant amount of alder and oak regeneration on the bank side of the path.

Stand Data

The site is made up a broad mix of species and ages, with only a small area of plantation conifers that are of a similar age class.



Survey Data

People counters have been in use on Lady Mary's Walk and these have shown that on average the walk receives around 30,500 visits a year.

There has also been a survey of vascular plants undertaken in 2004.

37.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no designated archaeological sites within or adjacent to Lady Mary's Walk.

Ecological

Himalayan Balsam is a problem in the woods and along the river bank and this should be eradicated. It is an exotic and aggressive plant that can take over areas and prevent native ground flora from establishing.

It is unsuitable to turn this wood into a native woodland due to the value of the large non-native species such as the beech hedge and sweet chestnut.

Northern Marsh Orchid is found in the open areas by the power line, and whilst it is not a threatened species it is attractive and adds to the value of the site.

Herbivore

Deer, squirrels and rabbits are present on the site.

Social

There are no community groups that work on Lady Mary's Walk, however, it is an important site for bringing all walks of life together informally.

Public Access

Lady Marys Walk is promoted as 'wheelchair friendly' and is suitable for motorised and manual wheelchairs. It is also suitable for pushchairs and the path is wide enough to prevent conflict between users. Some cycling takes place and a circular route linking up with Puddock Wood could be promoted to mountain bikers. There is a conflict arising from measures to prevent motorbikes that inadvertently prevent horseriders from using the path.

37.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The carbon stored within the trees at Lady Mary's Walk will be retained. There is limited scope for some planting, although this will only be in areas where trees have had to be removed.	Low
Timber	The will be no commercial timber extraction from Lady Mary's Walk.	Low
Business development	The walk adds to the attractiveness of Crieff as a visitor destination, and the suitability of the walk for wheelchairs will attract the less able bodied to visit Crieff.	Medium
Community development	As the path is suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and those less able to walk, it will encourage those users who are otherwise unable to go into the countryside. This diversity of users will increase community involvement and will provide a space for learners to engage with woodlands in an accessible environment. It also provides a space for interaction with others in the community, whether formal or informal.	High
Access and health	People with limited physical capabilities can enjoy the outdoors, and all the mental and physical benefits this brings.	High
Environmental quality	The trees near to the river will slow surface run off and increase interception, thus increasing lag times. The tree cover near the river also enhances the river	Medium

Theme	Aims	Priority
	habitat.	
Biodiversity	The woods are not rich in BAP species, however, they connect the woods of the west of Crieff to the 'urban' trees thus providing habitat connectivity.	Medium

37.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Achieving objective five, 'confident, active and inclusive communities', of the Corporate Plan can be supported by the excellent access provision at Lady Mary's Walk. In particular, the site gives the less able bodied and those in wheelchairs the opportunity to feel part of the community and enjoy being in a 'natural' environment.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Having a countryside site that is truly open to all is unusual and Lady Mary's Walk is an excellent example of how to promote a 'safe, healthy and inclusive community'.

37.5 Silvicultural Policy

To manage as a continuous cover woodland with a varied age structure that provides an attractive backdrop to users of the path.

Felling and Thinning

There will not be any thinning or felling as the conversion of the woodland to a native woodland will be done though removing regeneration and waiting for the natural senescence of the mature sycamore trees.

The hazel in the southern part of the woodland will be coppiced.

Restructuring and New Planting

No restructuring or new planting will take place.

Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

Species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed will be regularly monitored and controlled if necessary.

37.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-

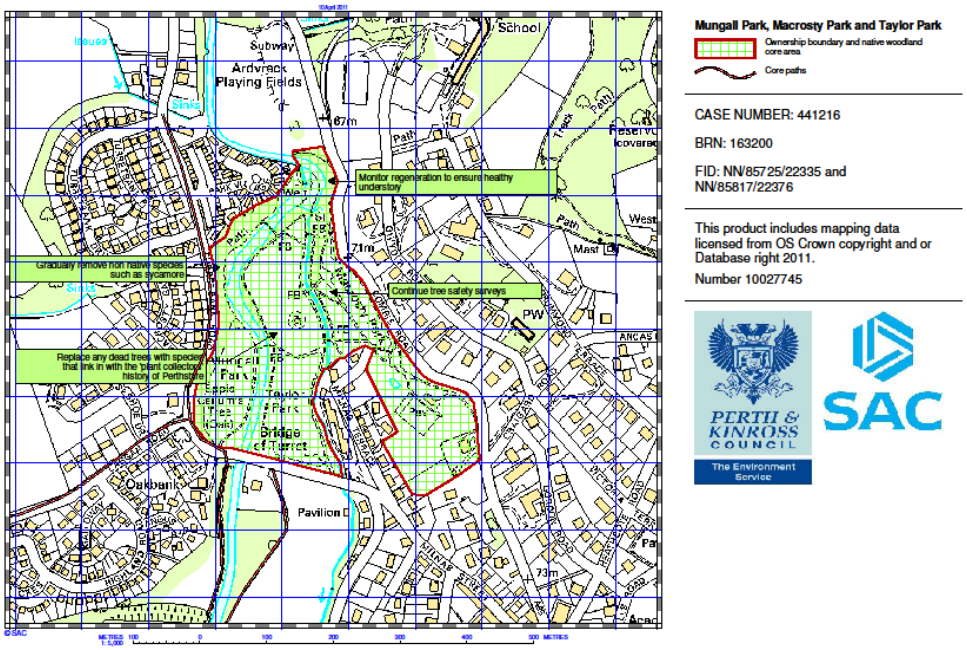
										2033
Tree safety surveys and associated works.										
Remove non-native invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam.										
Maintain views along the river by removing regenerated trees along bank.										
Remove non-native regeneration such as sycamore.										

37.7 Production Forecast

Trees will only be removed if they pose a risk to the public.

38 Macrosty Park, Mungall Park and Taylor Park

38.1 Location and Background



Property

The sites are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The parks cover an area of 3.68ha which is located in the north west of Crieff.

Altitude

The eastern boundary of the Park is the highest point at 70 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are freely draining brown forest soils.

History

MacRosty Park was gifted to Crieff in 1902 by James MacRosty who was elected Chief Magistrate of Crieff three times. The adjacent Mungall Park was gifted by Provost Mungall in 1922 and Taylor Park, previously the field by the old mills, was gifted by Councillor Taylor

in 1938. In the late 20th century the park was beginning to look tired and the Friends of MacRosty Park was formed to apply for funding to renovate the park. This was successful and the park was rejuvenated.

Community Interest

There is a very high community interest in the park with Friends of Macrosty Park leading the way by applying for funding, organising events and planning the planting beds in the gardens.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on the 4 June 2013 and an online survey was available throughout June. One response was received and they supported all the management proposals. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The vision is to continue to provide a high quality amenity green space and to manage the trees to complement the feel and the history of the park.

Management Objectives

1) Continue with tree safety surveys and any required work.
2) Replace any trees that have to be removed with other interesting and exotic species to reflect the 'plant collecting feel of the park'.
3) Remove sycamore regeneration from the woodland strip.

Site and Species Descriptions

The Park is predominantly green space with wide ranges of trees planted in singles and groups throughout. There are also three main strips of trees: the first, the largest, runs north south along the western boundary, the second along the boundary with Comrie Road, and the third runs along the burn. The species are very mixed, mainly broadleaved but with a significant number of exotic conifers.

Stand Data

No measurements have been taken.

Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

38.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

The Park is listed, as is the mill lade, sluice and mill and the bandstand.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site although it does form part of the native woodland core area.

Herbivore

Squirrels are numerous in the park and there is evidence of rabbits and voles.

Social

There is strong community interest in the park, both formally via the Friends of Macrosty Park and informally, from the high numbers of visitors and users of the park and the events held there.

Public Access

A number of paths crisscross the Park and the path to the west is a Core Path. It is mainly walkers of all abilities who use these paths, although occasionally cyclists will use them.

38.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The woodland is a store of carbon and having a high quality green space in the town will reduce the number of people driving out of town for walks/dog walking.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The trees add texture and colour to the town and make it a more desirable place to live.	Low
Community development	The community have played an essential role in rejuvenating and managing the park and this has resulted in a high quality green space for everyone to enjoy.	High
Access and health	Most of the paths are suitable for all users, including those less able, and its location within the town, yet linked with longer walks makes this an ideal place to enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise.	High
Environmental quality	The woodland will intercept rainfall and reduce surface runoff in the area.	Medium

Biodiversity	The woodland is a wildlife haven in the town.	Medium

38.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Having confident, active and inclusive communities is one of the five objectives of the Corporate Plan and the facilities provided at the Park, and the Park itself do this fully.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Community engagement is at the heart of the Community Plan and the high level of community interest and leadership in the park supports the principles of the Community Plan.

38.5 Silvicultural Policy

To maintain the tree cover and to continue using exotic tree species to link the park to its history.

Felling and Thinning

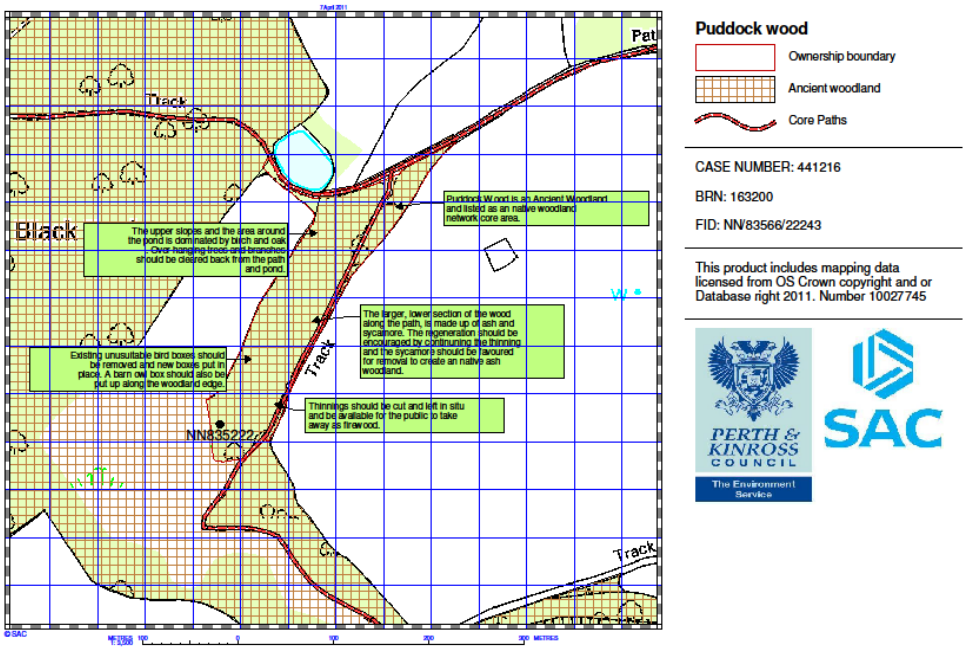
Aside from removal of sycamore regeneration and taking down trees due to health and safety fears there will be no felling or thinning.

38.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										
Removal of sycamore regeneration.										

39 Puddock Wood Crieff

39.1 Location and Background



Property

The property is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Puddock wood covers an area of 2.34 ha and is located to the west of Crieff. It is around 400 m north-west of Lady Mary's Walk.

Altitude

The site is at a maximum of 130 m above sea level (rising from 100 m above sea level in the south west).

Soils

The soil of Puddock wood is Bruntland soils, a humus iron podzol which is freely draining.

History

There are a few trees marked on the map in the area in the 1753 maps, although due to the inaccuracies in mapping it is unclear whether it is precisely at the same spot that Puddock Wood now stands. The earliest mapped record of Puddock Wood is on the 1898 OS map which clearly shows the woodland. Therefore the site has been wooded for over 100 years.

Community Interest

The Wood is well used with walkers, cyclists and very occasionally horseriders. It forms part of the path to Laggan Hill. The pond is also a focal point.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 4 June 2013. One person commented on the proposals for Puddock Wood and was in support of all of them. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision of the site is as attractive native woodland, well used by the public, that provides texture on the landscape and habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Management Objectives

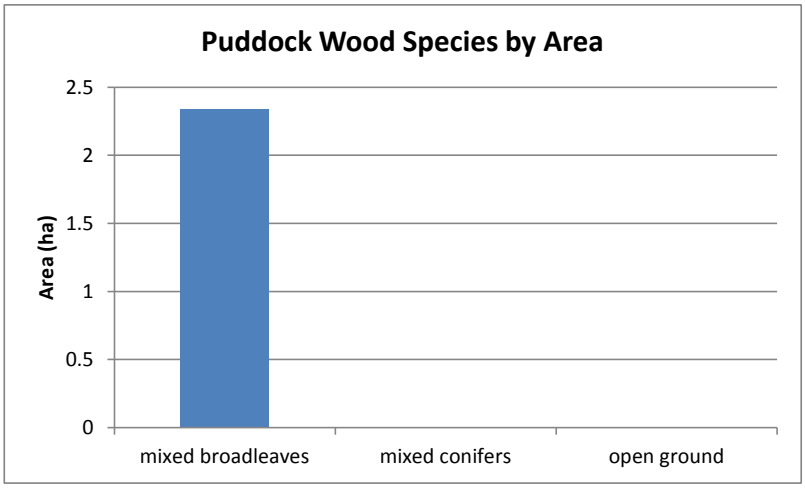
1) Continue thinning the lower part of the wood, favouring the removal of the sycamore.
2) Coppice the ash. A couple of stems should be removed every three years to stimulate shots for coppicing.
3) Remove sycamore regeneration.
4) Install a barn owl box in a large tree adjacent to the fields.
5) Cut back any overhanging branches that are causing problems for walkers/cyclists.
6) Continue to maintain the path.

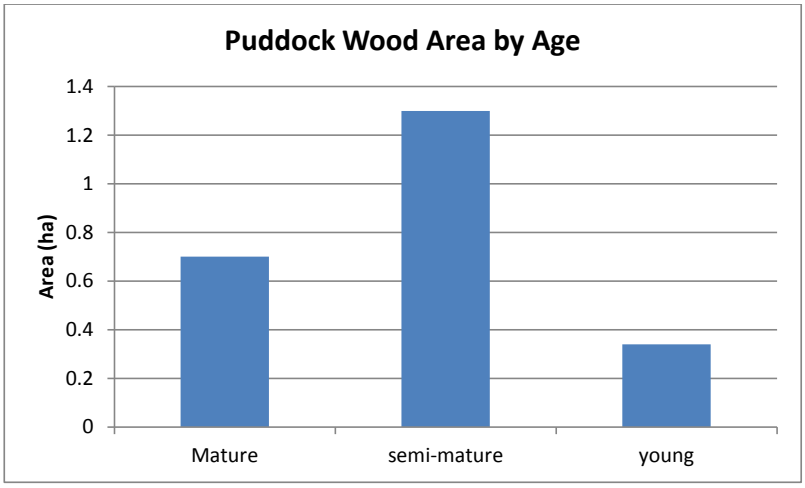
Site and Species Descriptions

There are two main woodland types at Puddock wood: 1) a birch and oak woodland in the north of the wood, and 2) an ash and sycamore wood that runs alongside the path. There is a mixed age class, with some mature and semi-mature trees and some regeneration.

Stand Data

The lower area (around 1.8 ha) is made up of predominantly semi-mature ash and sycamore, and the upper area near the pond is predominantly birch and oak of mixed age classes with some regeneration.





Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

39.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no archaeological sites within Puddock Wood.

Ecological

Whilst there are no species of significant interest in Puddock Wood, it pertains to be a W17 *Quercus pretraea – betular pubescens* alongside an ash dominated woodland and this is locally unusual. In addition, it is an ideal site to install barn own boxes due to the open farmland to the east that would provide hunting ground.

Herbivore

There is evidence of deer browsing although the presence of some regeneration means the deer numbers are not yet at critical levels.

Social

There are no organised local groups that are solely responsible for Puddock Wood although community management should be encouraged. The removal of sycamore saplings could be a job that the local community could get involved in.

Public Access

There is public access through the wood, running from the south west, heading up to the pond in the north on a path suitable for walking and cycling and horse riding, but not suitable for wheelchairs.

39.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	Retaining the carbon stored in the trees and soils of the woodland will ensure that the management of Paddock Wood does not contribute to the causes of climate change. Puddock Wood also forms an important habitat linkage that will aid species migration should the effects of climate change cause it.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	Puddock Wood is unlikely to be a tourist destination in itself, but it does aim to the character of the area and the natural landscape that attracts visitors.	Low
Community development	The community should be encouraged to get involved in the instillation of bird and barn owl boxes.	Low
Access and health	The path through Puddock Wood joins with other paths and forms a network of walks in the area. A good choice of local routes will encourage people to walk regularly and often, improving their mental and physical health.	Medium
Environmental quality	Woodlands on slopes can reduce surface run off and river sedimentation and this is especially important for important fish	Medium

	rivers such as The Earn, which is a Special Area of Conservation.	
Biodiversity	The non-native species will be removed and nesting birds encouraged by installing boxes. As Puddock Wood links two other woodlands it is an important part of the local habitat network and therefore supports more wildlife than it would if an isolated woodland.	Medium

39.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The management of Puddock Wood predominantly supports objective five of the Corporate Plan 'A confident, active and inclusive community' by providing a footpath that links with others to encourage exercise and outdoors activity.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

A 'healthy' community is encouraged by the provision of a high quality footpath network around Crieff, of which Puddock Wood forms part.

39.5 Silvicultural Policy

Continuous cover forestry will be undertaken here, with only a gradual removal of sycamore over the period of the plan. Natural regeneration will be encouraged, with tubes put on if appropriate. If the ash succumbs to chalara, then the oak and birch woodland should be encouraged to expand into the ash area. Dead trees should only be removed if they are close to the path and pose a safety risk.

Felling and Thinning

Thinning should be undertaken every five years with around 20 trees removed. Sycamores should be taken out along with ash that are within dense stands. Trees of poor form should be favoured for removal.

Restructuring and New Planting

The areas that are thinned should develop into mature woodland with an understory of natural regeneration coming through. If browsing by deer increases to such an extent that regeneration is being adversely affected then tree shelters should be put on.

Felling Table

Felling Period	Area of Thinni	Area of Felling	Restructuring Area by Successor Crop Types (net area of

			species, other land to cover open ground) (ha)						
			Sitka Spruce	**Other Conifer**	**Mixed Broadleaves**	**Native Broadleaves**	**Caledonian Scots Pine**	**Natural Regeneration**	**Other Land**
2014	2.34	0.06				0.06			
2019	2.34	0.06				0.06			
2024	2.34	0.06				0.06			
Totals		0.18				0.18			

39.6 Work Plan

Activity	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024 - 2034**
Remove sycamore regeneration and coppice ash.											
Protect oak, birch and ash regeneration if required.											
Thin out sycamore (and ash if required).											

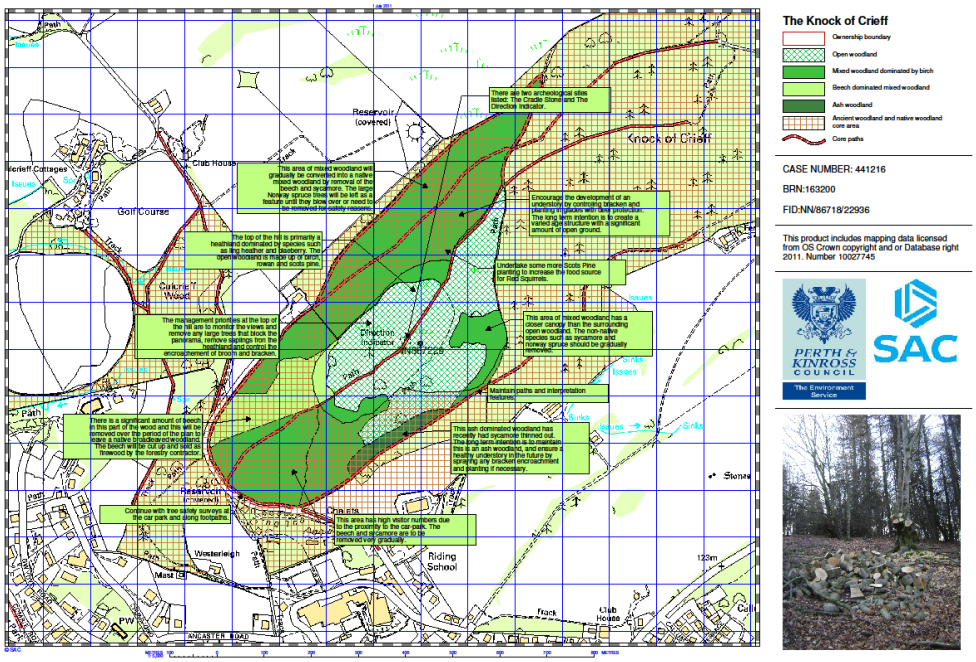
39.7 Production Forecast

Year	**Volumes**
2014	Approx 5 m^3
2015	n/a

2016	n/a
2017	n/a
2018	n/a
2019	Approx 5 m^3
2020	n/a
2021	n/a
2022	n/a
2023	n/a
2024	Approx 5 m^3

40 The Knock of Crieff

40.1 Location and Background



Property

The property is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Knock is a hill located to the north of Crieff and the Council owned part covers an area of 29.75 ha on the western and central side of the hill. The eastern side of the hill is owned and managed by Crieff Hydro.

Altitude

The highest point on the Council's owned land is 244 m above sea level.

Soils

The majority of the hill is composed of Shields soils; freely drained humus iron podzols. The centre is mainly bare rock and scree with a shallow humus rich soil in developing places.

History

The Knock takes its name from the old Scots word for hillock, which was derived from the Gaelic 'cnoc' meaning hill. The name Crieff derives from the Gaelic word 'craobh' meaning 'among trees.' The 1755 maps show the Knock as being unwooded. The 1783 military survey maps show The Knock as being covered with trees which may meant

that the previous map had omitted putting on the trees (only the trees around large houses were mapped in detail). However, The Knock has been a under continuous tree cover for at least 220 years.

Community Interest

There is a large amount of community interest in the Knock of Crieff. Many local people use it for recreation: for dog walking, hiking, horse-riding, mountain biking and, occasionally, cross country skiing. In addition it is well used by tourists, both from Crieff Hydro and visitors to the town.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 4 June 2013. Three people responded and they generally supported all the management proposals except one person did not support leaving deadwood on site. In addition, the RSPB commented that the woodland is in an area important for Red Kite breeding and asked that all trees are surveyed before felling and that FC note 32. Forests and Birds is followed during forest operations. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is to maintain the wood as a high quality countryside visitor attraction whilst enhancing its biodiversity and nature conservation value.

Management Objectives

1) Gradually remove non-native species to create a native woodland.
2) Maintain the views on the top of the hill by removing any large trees.
3) Maintain and improve the heath land by removing saplings and controlling broom and bracken.
4) Monitor trees for pests and diseases and adapt management accordingly.
5) Create a varied age structure.
6) Continue tree safety surveys.

Site and Species Descriptions

There are four main woodland types at the Knock:

Birch dominated mixed woodland (12.92 ha).

1) Beech dominated mixed woodland (2.27 ha).
2) Ash woodland (0.72 ha).
3) Open heath with natural regeneration (8.96 ha).

Birch Dominated Mixed Woodland

Birch is the dominant species with rowan, ash, oak, beech, willow and hawthorn and conifers Norway spruce, Scots pine and larch. Trees are well spaced with a healthy ground flora including foxglove, blaeberry and marsh violet. This woodland type covers around two thirds of the site.

Beech Dominated Mixed Woodland

This area includes a former beech hedge as well as previously planted and naturally regenerated individual mature beech trees. Other species include oak, birch and rowan. Generally well-spaced out with beech trees that have recently been felled creating openings in the canopy and rejuvenating the ground flora.

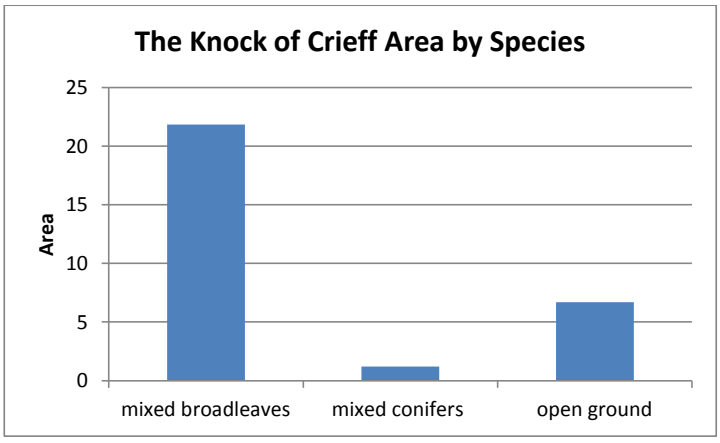
Ash Woodland

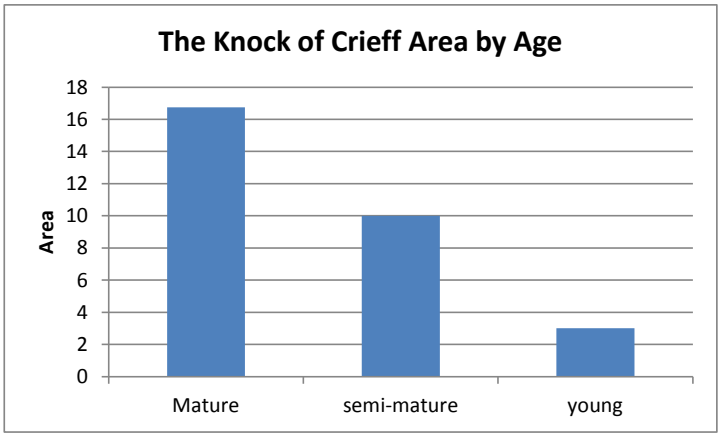
Predominantly ash, this part of the wood has an understory of sycamore that has been thinned out. There is also encroachment of bracken.

Open Heath with Natural Regeneration

Predominantly heath land, especially towards the summit, this area has a few enclosures of newly planted Scots pine and juniper. Other tree species include birch, rowan with a few conifers (Norway spruce, Scots pine and larch). There is interesting heathland ground flora including eyebright, harebell and heath bedstraw.

Stand Data





Survey Data

A survey of the vascular plants found at The Knock was undertaken in 2006.

40.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are two archaeological monuments of interest on the Knock – a crade stone a 'hugh boulder [erratic] split into two' at NGR: NN86542272 and a view indicator at NGR: NN86762296.

Ecological

There are two UK BAP priority species present on the Knock – the pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly and the red squirrel. In addition, it is rich in other important native species, especially in the ground flora which includes yellow pimpernel, wood sorrel, barren strawberry tormentil amongst others. Scots Pine will continue to be planted to support the red squirrel and the Norway spruce will not be removed unless necessary as they provide an important food source for red squirrels. The primary larval food plant of the pearl-bordered fritillary is Common Dog-violet (Viola riviniana). Heath Dog-violet (Viola canina) and Marsh Violet (Viola palustris) are also used. Adults feed primarily on Bugle and Tormentil and Dandelion. The presence of these species are important to maintain the butterfly population and therefore open glades and low stoking will be maintained.

Herbivore

Roe Deer are present although their browsing is not at a critical point where they need controlling. Red Squirrels are present.

Social

The Knock is an important place for many people; both local people and visitors. It is a place to walk and talk, to spend time with family or on your own. It is good for exercise and for clearing your mind, for looking at the fantastic view, or for looking at the wildflowers at your feet.

Public Access

Public usage is high and the Knock is used by horse riders, cyclists, walkers and dog walkers. There are two circular paths that are heavily used by horseriders, although this pressure has resulted in a deterioration of the path. Cyclists tend to use the path that runs from the upper car park onto the hydro land, although mountain bikers do use all the footpaths. Walkers use all the paths and create new ones. Erosion is a problem on the steeper paths and the paths are getting wider due to people avoiding the wet/eroded areas and creating new paths around them.

40.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	Trees uptake carbon and younger trees uptake carbon faster than older trees. In addition, soils contain carbon and soil disturbance can release carbon into the atmosphere. However, as saplings will be removed from the health land area and some mature non-native trees will also be taken down to allow space for native trees to grow. Whilst these management practices are not increasing carbon in the atmosphere, because no new planting is taking place.	Low
Timber	No saleable timber at this site.	Low
Business development	The Knock is a popular visitor attraction to tourists to Crieff. It has the potential to be the location for appropriate sustainable utilisation, such as ecology walks, film locations, weddings, etc.	Medium
Community development	Due to the proximity of the car parts the woodland has potential for active volunteer groups as well as being a site for visits from scouts/guides and other community groups.	Medium
Access and health	The walks and cycle routes are an excellent accessible way for people to enjoy the outdoors and exercise in peaceful surroundings. Walking and cycling outside improves mental health as well as physical well-being. In addition, spending time in 'semi wild' environments increases confidence and well-being and standing at the viewpoint creates a sense of place and belonging, whilst using the energy required to get up there results in a	High

Theme	Aims	Priority
	feeling of achievement	
Environmental quality	The podzol soils and tree cover are excellent natural flood defences as they reduce surface run off and increase lag time. Crieff is within and area classed as 'in bad condition' in regards to the water quality of rivers, lochs and estuaries in the Scotland river basin management plan, with the aim of getting to a good status by 2027. Trees also intercept airborne particulate pollution as well as reducing wind speeds improving the local environment.	Medium
Biodiversity	Of the HAPs in Tayside the Knock can be categorised as having three in unfavourable condition. Juniper and two bat species.	High

40.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Of the five objectives contained within the Plan, objective three and objective five are supported by the management of the Knock. Objective three is for a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive economy and the high quality 'natural' visitor experience offered at the Knock will both enhance the tourist experience and encourage inward investment. Objective five is for a confident, active and inclusive community. The Knock is an ideal site for outdoor exercise, from high energy mountain biking to low energy afternoon strolls, and as the site is free and can be enjoyed at no cost, it is open to everyone.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The vision of the community plan is for a 'confident and ambitious Perth and Kinross to which everyone can contribute and in which all can share'. Of the three aims that drive this vision, the Knock provides a space that supports two of them: a vibrant and successful area and a safe, healthy and inclusive community.

40.5 Silvicultural Policy

The overriding silvicultural policy for the Knock is continuous cover forestry, with the occasional removal of a single tree for biodiversity or health and safety reasons. The ultimate aim, which is already closely realised, is to have a varied age structure, variety of native tree species and variable stocking across the site to allow for areas of open ground and woodland glades. Felling will be infrequent and planting will take place when required. Natural regeneration will be monitored and encouraged where appropriate, although cleaning will take place in the heathland at the top of the hill. Non-native trees will be

gradually removed, except the Norway spruce. Dead or dying trees will be left in situ unless they pose a risk to the public.

Felling and Thinning

The only thinning to take place will be the continuation of the gradual removal of beech and sycamore. Less than 20 m³ a year will be removed. Trees will be surveyed for breeding birds before felling.

Restructuring and New planting

Scots pine will be planted to replace the sycamore and beech. These will be planted in small enclosures with 4 to 5 saplings in tree shelters in each enclosure.

Control of Non-native Invasive Plant Species

Although not exotic, bracken is a problem on the site and it is colonising a large part of the heath land areas. It should be sprayed annually with herbicide to stop spread and to try and reduce the area it already covers.

Felling Period	Area of Thinning (ha)	Area of Felling (net area) (ha)	Restructuring Area by Successor Crop Types (net area of species, other land to cover open ground) (ha)						
			Sitka Spruce	Other Conifer	Mixed Broadleaves	Native Broadleaves	Caledonian Scots Pine	Natural Regeneration	Other Land
2014		0.08					0.08		
2016		0.38					0.08		0.3
2018		0.08					0.08		
2020		0.08					0.08		
2022		0.38					0.08		0.3
Totals		1					0.4		0.6

40.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Remove trees that block the view from the summit.										
Remove non-										

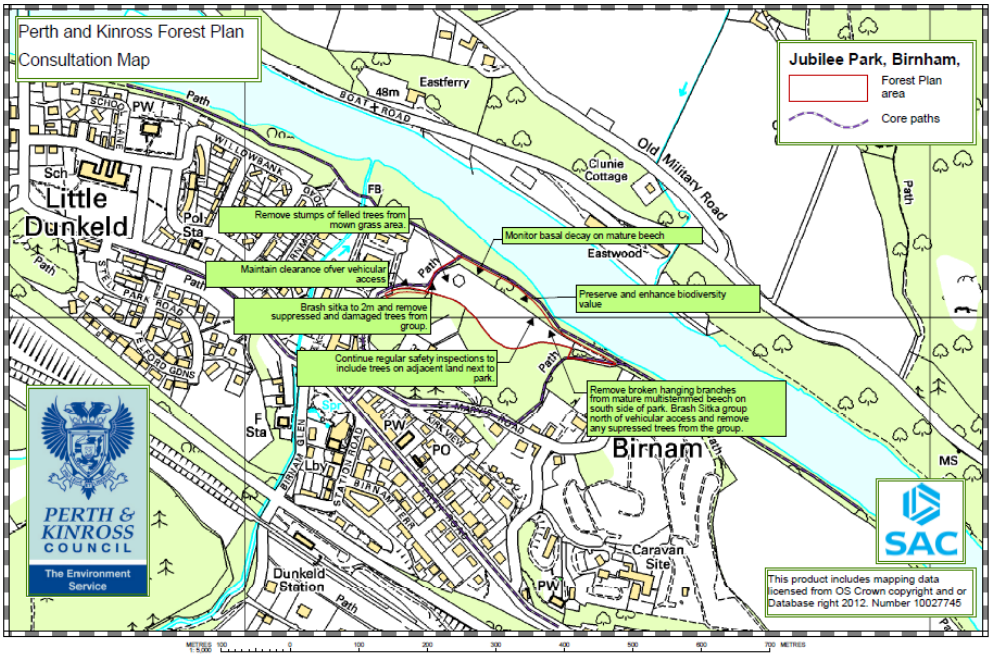
native species such as Sycamore and Beech.										
Cut back/ spray bracken and Broom from heath land areas.										
Plant Scots pine in areas cleared of beech and sycamore.										

40.7 Production Forecast

Year	Volumes
2014	<20 m^3
2015	
2016	<20 m^3
2017	
2018	<20 m^3
2019	
2020	<20 m^3
2021	
2022	<20 m^3
2023	

41 Jubilee Park, Dunkeld

41.1 Location and Background



Property

The property is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Park covers an area of 1.06 ha. It is surrounded by woodland on the southern bank of the River Tay.

Altitude

The Park is at 50 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are alluvial deposits.

History

Originally part of the grounds of Torwood House the park was gifted to the Council in the latter half of the 20th century.

Community Interest

The Park is used intermittently by walkers although people often walk past it to get to the riverside walk. It has been suggested that it is a good location for a skate park.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 28 May June 2013. One person commented on the plans for the Park and all the management proposals were supported. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for the park to be a well-used greenspace and for the trees surrounding the park to enhance the setting of the park.

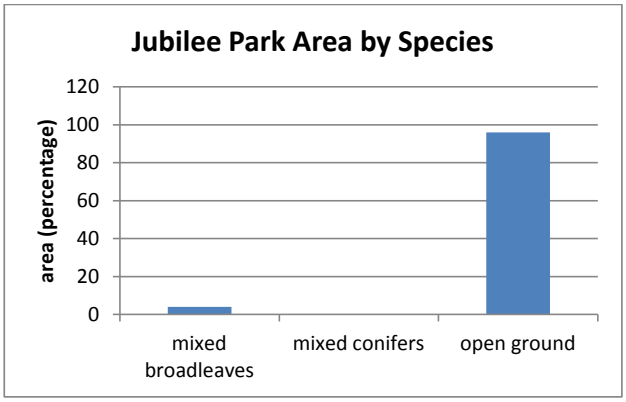
Management Objectives

1) Continue with tree safety surveys.
2) Work with surrounding landowners to convert the woodlands to native woodland.

Site and Species Descriptions

An open space surrounded by woodland (not owned by the Council). There is a scatting of broadleaved trees within the ownership of the council.

Stand Data



Survey Data

No formal surveys have been undertaken.

41.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no archaeological sites in the Park.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on the site.

Herbivore

There is evidence of rabbits and squirrels in the Park.

Social

The Park is underused and a local community group has suggested that installing a skate park would increase the number of people visiting the Park.

Public Access

There is public access throughout the Park and a footpath runs from Oak Road.

41.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	There is little opportunity to reduce the impacts of climate change.	Low
Timber	There is no scope for timber production.	Low
Business development	The Park is part of a number of places in Dunkeld and Birnam that add to the desirability to live there.	Low
Community development	Getting children from the community together to support installing a skate park is an excellent example of community development.	Medium
Access and health	The Park is occasionally used by people walking dogs.	Low
Environmental quality	The Park will have a minimal effect on infiltration and runoff.	Low
Biodiversity	The grassland area offers little wildlife habitat.	Low

41.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

An underutilised park such as Jubilee Park is an ideal way of engaging with the local community to consult on the future usage of the Park.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The Park is an excellent setting for some sort of play park, whether it is a skate park or bike park.

41.5 Silvicultural Policy

Continue to manage as an open green space and work with the community to increase usage of the Park.

Felling and Thinning

No felling or thinning will be undertaken.

Restructuring and New planting

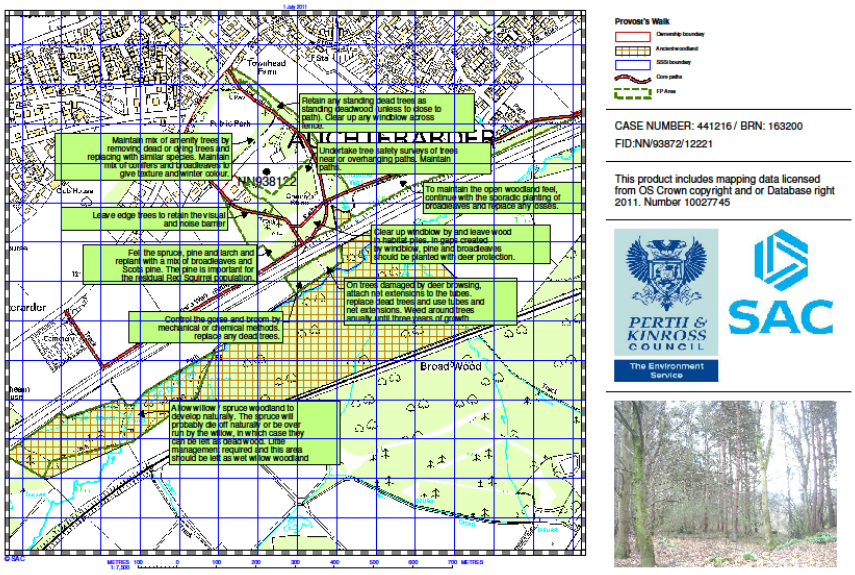
No new planting will be undertaken.

41.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

42 Provost's Walk and Primrose Park, Auchterarder

42.1 Location and Background



Property

The sites are owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Provost's Walk and Primrose Park are located to the south of Auchterarder and cover a total area of 17.24 ha. The area in the Forest Plan is in four blocks, the main area covering the Park and to the north of the A9, with two sections to the south of the A9 and a strip of trees just under a kilometre west from the main park area.

Altitude

At its highest point the woodland is 110 m above sea level, rising from just under 80 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Balrownie soils – a brown forest soil derived from lower old red sandstone.

History

The Park was created, and the woodlands planted, in the second half of the 20th Century – the conifers are on their first rotation.

Community Interest

The walks to the north of the A9 are well used, however, there is no evidence that the walk through the areas to the south of the main road is being used – crossing the dual carriageway is a deterrent, along with lack of signs or information about the areas to the south.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 4 June 2013. One person commented on the plans and they supported all the proposals. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision for the site can be divided into two: for the areas to the north of the A9 the long term vision is to gradually create an attractive native mixed woodland that provides a screen for the road, wildlife habitat and texture and variety on the landscape. The areas to the south should be managed for biodiversity and wildlife, with little intervention.

Management Objectives

1) To fell the conifers in Compartment 3. Due to the high level of public usage, the location next to the main road and the age of the trees clear felling of the conifers should be undertaken with care to not damage the smaller broadleaved trees. In addition, pockets of Scots pine should be left for red squirrels.
2) To maintain the open feel in Compartment 2 and continue with sporadic planning to replace dead or dying trees.
3) To remove windblown trees in Compartment 1 and continue with tree safety surveys.
4) To replace trees that have not taken in Compartment 4 and use appropriate deer protection and to weed annually.
5) Monitor annually the wet willow woodland – little management is required in this area and it should be left to develop naturally.

Site and Species Descriptions

Compartment	**Area (ha)**	**Description**
1	6.57	Mixed broadleaved woodland, with occasional conifers – predominantly semi mature – mature surrounding open green

		space.
2	2.33	Open 'parkland' type woodland with sporadic single young, semi mature and mature broadleaves.
3	2.17	Commercial conifer woodland in three blocks. Spruce, pine and larch with some mature broadleaves, mainly lime, and a scattering of regeneration within the first few rows of each block. Open ground surrounding blocks and in a large ride between the larch and spruce.
4	0.68	Area recently planted with native mixed broadleaves, although deer damage is very high and most of the trees have been heavily browsed or are now dead. Trees will be replaced as agreed with FC
5	4.87	Area of wet woodland that had been planted with spruce. Willow has taken over and is now covering the site.
6	0.62	A strip of amenity mixed woodland

Figure 26: Spruce Stand

Stand Data

Species	Description
Sitka spruce	Approx 0.4ha of P60 SS.
Norway spruce	0.12ha of Mature, P60.

Hybrid Larch	Approx 0.45ha.P60
Scots Pine	Approx 0.46ha P60

Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

42.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There is a former quarry within the park and a former curling pond within the wet woodland area***.***

Ecological

Red squirrels, a UK BAP species, are present on the site. The woodlands are near to the Kincardine Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated due to its importance of Oak woodland habitat.

Herbivore

Apart for squirrels and rabbits there is a high number of deer present, especially to the south of the A9.

Social

There is evidence of fly-tipping and vandalism. This is unsightly in a mature woodland and could cause problems when restocking takes place as young trees are fragile and can be easily damaged.

Public Access

The path running through the Park is a designated Core Path. This is a good quality 'all user' path.

42.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	Timber is a sustainable building material and harvesting and replanting is almost carbon neutral (excluding vehicle emission and soil disturbance). In addition, the new trees will sequester carbon.	Medium

Timber	Felling the timber will provide local merchants with raw materials, most of which will be used in building, fencing, packaging or as a particle board.	High
Business development	The timber industry employs a range of people from drivers, administration staff, timber merchants and mill workers, and utilising the resource at Auchterarder will support this industry.	Medium
Community development	Whilst there is high community usage of the site, there is limited opportunity for organised community engagement. However, there may be interest in tree planting once the conifers have been felled.	Low
Access and health	The walks through and around the woods are well maintained and encourage users to exercise outside. They form part of longer distance footpaths providing an enjoyable visit for users of all abilities.	Medium
Environmental quality	The woodland currently reduces noise and absorbs particulate matter from the A9. It also protects the road from snow drifts and reduces surface run off in periods of heavy or prolonged rain.	High
Biodiversity	The wet willow woodland and the mixed broadleaved woodland to the south of the A9, once established, will provide a haven for a variety of native wildlife. In addition, the Scots pine should help maintain the Red Squirrel population.	Medium

42.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

Creating a prosperous and sustainable economy is key to the Corporate Plan and timber is one of the true sustainable industries. Due to the location and high visitor usage it would be inadvisable to replant with a commercial crop, however, the first rotation can be realised and this will put over 400 tonnes of timber on the market.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

Building a vibrant and successful area is one of the aims of the Community Plan and harvesting and utilising the timber resource will support employment and the economy of the area.

42.5 Silvicultural Policy

To clear fell the conifer bocks and replant with native broadleaves and Scots pine. To manage the other areas as continuous cover forestry and ensure that an understory develops. To replant, and appropriately protect where necessary the failed trees south of A9 and create a native mixed woodland.

Felling and Thinning

The conifer blocks in Compartment 3 should be clear felled and sold as a standing sale to get value for money for the council. Forest operation guidelines should be followed when felling is underway and the footpath should be diverted.

Restructuring and New Planting

The felled area should be replanted with native broadleaved woodland and Scots pine. Oak, rowan, hawthorn, cherry and birch should be planted at 3 m spacing. They should be planted in wavy lines to give a more naturalistic appearance.

42.6 Work Plan

Activity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 - 2033
Clear fell conifers											
Replace failed trees.											
Replant felled areas with mixed native broadleaves and Scots pine.											

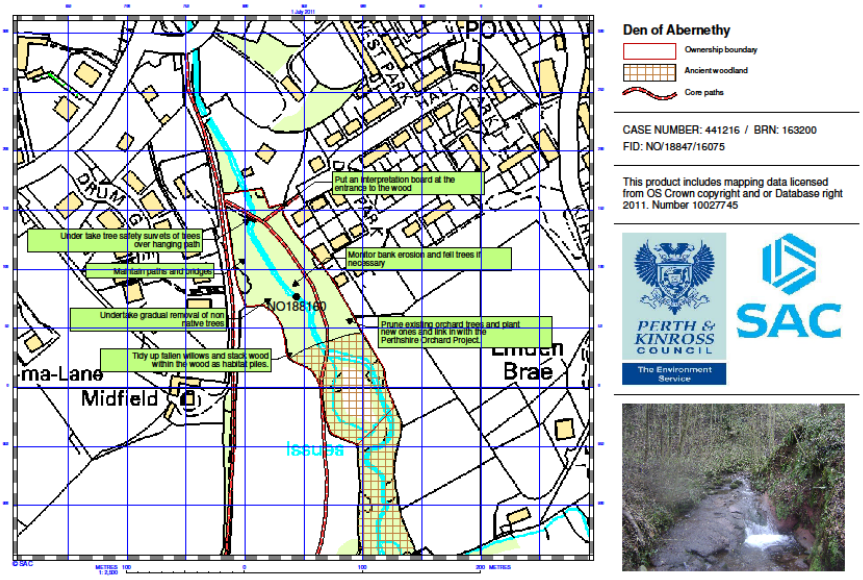
42.7 Production Forecast

Year	Species	Volume	Weight
2014	Sitka spruce	151 m^3	140 tonnes
2014	Norway spruce	42 m^3	40 tonnes

2014	H. Larch	150 m³	135 tonnes
2014	Scots pine	88 m³	90 tonnes

43 Abernethy Glen

43.1 Location and Background



Property

The site is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

Abernethy Glen is a small steep sided glen located to the south of the village of Abernethy. It is 1.30 ha in area. .

Altitude

The sites are 40 m above sea level in the north, rising to about 60 m above sea level in the south.

Soils

The soils are brown forest soils will alluvial deposits adjacent to the burn.

History

On the 1860 OS maps there is a mill in the south of the Glen fed by a dam with a sluice gate. The footpath to the dam can be seen, and this is the same footpath that runs north south through the Glen today.

Community Interest

The walk is well used both as a local walk and as part of a longer route onto Abernethy Glen Road and on to Pitmedden Forest in the south. There is evidence that children are playing in the wood and they are leaving behind litter.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 18 June 2013. One response was received and the respondent agreed with the management proposals and suggested that the interpretation board should be installed at the Main Street entrance as this entrance is used more by tourists. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is a mixed woodland, with predominantly native species that is well used by local residents and tourists that leads the walkers into the countryside.

Management Objectives

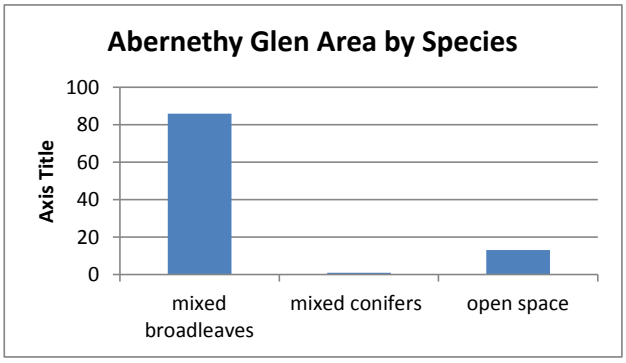
1) Install an interpretation board at the entrance to Main Street.
2) Plant more fruit trees in the glades on the eastern bank.
3) Remove fallen trees that are destabilising the bank and tidy up fallen willows.
4) Improve the footpath.
5) Under take tree safety surveys.

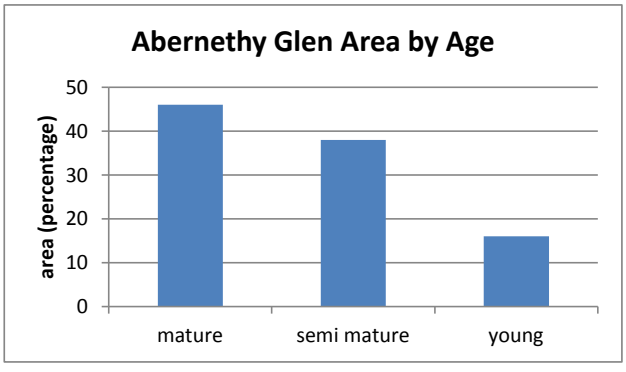
Site and Species Descriptions

Predominantly mixed broadleaved woodland, running either side of the burn with a couple of open glades. Species include ash, oak, cherry, sycamore and willow. Most of the trees are mature with a few semi-mature, a healthy amount of regeneration and some young fruit trees. A lot of the riparian trees, mainly willow, are falling over and the movement of their roots are disturbing the banks.

Figure 27: Evidence of Children Playing in the Woods

Stand Data





Survey Data

No surveys have been under taken on site.

43.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There is a record of a previously unrecorded standing stone and a possible stone circle. This area will be left as it is and will not be planted with trees. Any felling undertaken nearby will be undertaken with caution and will follow the guidelines on forests and historical sites.

Ecological

The southern part of the Glen is an ancient woodland. In this area the regeneration is good and there is a healthy mix of ages so little intervention is required.

Herbivore

Squirrels and deer are present in the wood, however, damage is not preventing the establishment of regeneration.

Social

The paths are well used and the woodlands area is being used by children to make swings and to generally play in. This is not causing too much damage although there is quite a lot of litter on site.

Public Access

There is public access throughout the site and the main path running in a north south direction is a Core Path.

43.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	**Aims**	**Priority**
Climate change	The trees are a carbon store and the woodland is part of a larger habitat network that will aid climate change induced migration.	Low
Timber	There is no scope for timber production and any trees removed for safety reasons should be cut up and tidily left on site.	Low
Business development	The Forestry Commission forest to the south is popular with mountain bikers and the route through Abernethy Glen will encourage riders to stay in Abernethy.	Low
Community development	There is no formal 'friends of' group although many local people enjoy spending time in the glen.	Low

Theme	Aims	Priority
Access and health	The footpaths are well used and they provide local residents with an attractive way of exploring outdoors.	Medium
Environmental quality	The woodlands will reduce infiltration rates and the natural flood areas in the glen will reduce the risk of flooding downstream.	Medium
Biodiversity	The ancient woodland is excellent for wildlife and the woodland connects up to surrounding woodlands to offer pathways and habitat networks.	Medium

43.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The Glen connects people to their environment and to the surrounding countryside and this supports the aim of people feeling a sense of place and ownership of their community. In addition, the woodland is a place for children to meet up and play outside and this is essential for social and mental development.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The site provides a wildlife haven and supports the sustainability aims of the Community Plans. The woodland also provides a site for informal play for children and young adults.

43.5 Silvicultural Policy

Continuous cover woodland that is a semi-wild environment close to the village that provides space for the local community and visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

Thinning and Felling

Dead and dying trees and trees that are damaging the paths should be removed.

Restructuring and New Planting

A handful of new fruit trees should be planted in the open glades to add some colour in the spring and some fruit in the autumn.

43.6 Work Plan

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023-2033

Tree safety surveys and surveys of trees adjacent to footpath.										
Plant four more fruit trees.										

44 Springfield Park, Kinross

44.1 Location and Background

Property

The Park is owned by Perth and Kinross Council. The Forest Plan has been written by Friendly Forestry Ltd and Perth and Kinross Council is the payee for any grant monies.

Location and Area

The Park is located in the west of Kinross, between the residential area and the motorway and it covers an area of 1.69ha.

Altitude

The site is around 120 m above sea level.

Soils

The soils are Darleth.

History

The Park was farmland owned by Springfield estate and was created alongside the house building in the 1980s.

Community Interest

The Park is used by local residents for walking and for the public walking dogs. There is also interest in the Park as there are proposals for building new houses on the land to the north and west of the Park.

Stakeholder Engagement

A community consultation meeting was held on 18 June 2013. Three responses were received and whilst most of the management proposals in the concept maps were supported, one respondent didn't agree with managing the woodland as continuous cover, another didn't agree with replacing dead trees or that the grass area should remain as grass. In addition, further comments were made about expanding the Park into the area to the north west but this is out with the scope of this Forest Plan. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix A.

Long Term Vision

The long term vision is for the trees surrounding, and within, the Park to continue to enhance the setting by maintaining the existing level of tree cover.

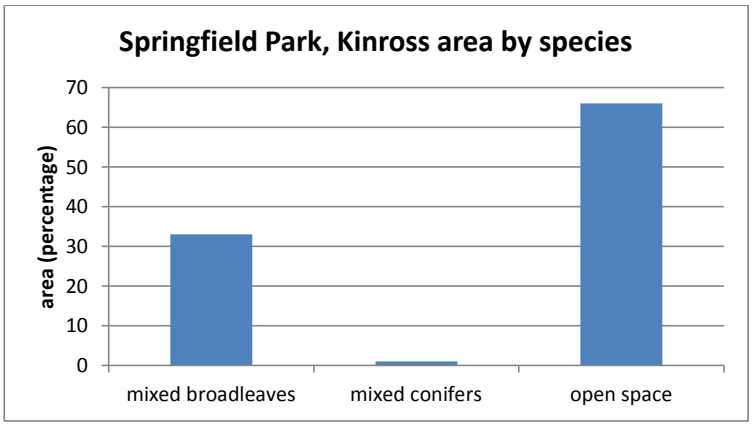
Management Objectives

1) Continue with tree safety surveys.
2) Maintaining existing level of tree cover by replacing any dead or dying trees with native broadleaves.

Site and Species Descriptions

An open greenspace with a play park and sports pitch that has strips of trees along the southern and western boundaries, and a group of trees along the eastern boundary.

Stand Data



Survey Data

No surveys have been undertaken on site.

44.2 Analysis of Constraints and Opportunities

Archaeological

There are no archaeological designations on site.

Ecological

There are no ecological designations on site.

Herbivore

There are rabbits on site and evidence of deer, although no large scale damage is taking place.

Social

The Park is well used by local residents, both as a destination (the play park or sports pitch) and as a thoroughfare (i.e. to the supermarket to the south, etc.). There is a small problem of dog mess being left on the ground.

Public Access

There is public access across the site and the path running from Springfield Road up to Gallows Road is a Core Path.

44.3 Links with Scottish Forestry Strategy

Theme	Aims	Priority
Climate change	The Core Path offers a route for people going into the town or to the supermarket and it may reduce the number of car journeys taken in the town.	Low
Timber	There is no scope for timber production.	Low
Business development	The Park is one of the attractions of Kinross.	Low
Community development	The play area and sports pitch provide space for informal community development and interaction.	Low
Access and health	The Park provides the space for exercise and enjoyment of the outdoors.	Medium

Environmental quality	The Park reduces noise from the nearby motorway.	Low
Biodiversity	The Park provides some habitats for wildlife.	Low

44.4 Links with other Council Policy

Perth and Kinross Corporate Plan

The Springfield Park adds to the attractive and welcoming environment of Kinross and provides opportunity for enjoyment of the outdoors for all ages.

Perth and Kinross Community Plan

The Community Plan aims for more cohesive communities and areas such as Springfield Park provide a space for informal community development.

44.5 Silvicultural Policy

To maintain the existing tree cover and replace any losses with native mixed broadleaves.

Thinning and Felling

No thinning or felling is planned.

Restructuring and New Planting

There are no plans for any new planting.

44.6 Work Plan

Activity	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023-2033**
Tree safety surveys and subsequent work required.										

45 Work Plan

Operation/activity	Year	Indication of Cost	Notes
Sycamore removal at Kingoodie.	2016 then every two years.	In house team one day	
Removal of trees overhanging ponds at Kingoodie.	2016	In house team one day	
Planting fruit trees at Invergowrie Park.	2016	In house team / volunteers half day	
Invergowrie Riverside. Marking and felling coupes of 30 trees .	2016 and then every two years	Half day consultant /in house team	
Invergowrie Riverside. Monitoring the regeneration in previously felled coupes	2016 then every two years	Tree officer two hours	
Thinning of Inveralmond planted areas.	2016 and 2020	In house team two days	
Thinning of spruce at Muirton.	2016 and 2020	In house team one day	
Clear alongside the burn at Craigie Burn.	2016 and 2021	In house team one day	
Kinnoull Hill. Removal of non-native regeneration (incl. spraying stumps).	2015 and then every two years	In house team three days	
Kinnoull Hill. Removal of sycamore from coupes 1, 2 and 3.	2015 then every two years	In house team – two days	Grants available
Treatment of Himalayan Balsam at Moncrieffe Island.	2015 and 2016	Contractor – half day	
Thin the conifers at St Magdalene's Hill.	2015 and 2020	Contractors – one day	Grants available
Thin the ash at St Magdalene's Hill.	2015 and 2020	In house team / contractors one day	
Respace young planted trees at St Magdalene's Hill.	2016 and 2021	In house team / contactors one day	
Fell sycamore at St Magdalene's Hill.	2015 and 2021	In house team / contractors – half day	
Plant gaps in avenues at South Inch.	2016 and 2020	In house team – half day	

Community litter picking day at Tulloch Woods.	2015 then every two years	Volunteers – one day	
Clearing out behind the play park at Tulloch Woods.	2015 and 2020	Volunteers – half day	
Planting fruit trees alongside the Larch plantation at Tulloch Woods.	2015	Volunteers – half day	
Plant small groups of broadleaves at Viewlands Reservoir.	2016	Volunteers / in house one day	
Thinning of beech and sycamore at Den of Alyth.	2015, 2018, 2022	In house / contractors two days	
Planting of native species (or protecting natural regeneration) at Den O'Alyth.	2016 and 2020	In house / contractors one day	
Coppice Hazel at Den O'Alyth.	2016 and 2020	In house / contractors - two hours	
Install interpretation board at Den O'Alyth.	2015	Half day	
Plant between footpath and beech trees at Largan Park.	2015	Volunteers / in house team one day	
Removal of sycamore and Norway maple at Loon Braes.	2015 and 2020	In house team – one day	
Removal of non-native trees at the Birks of Aberfeldy.	2015 and 2020	In house / contractors two days	
Bracken whipping at the Birks.	2015 then every two years	In house / volunteers -one day	
Planting birch to replace felled trees at the Birks.	2016 and 2021	In house / volunteers - one day	
Collect and grow on acorns at Black Spout Wood.	2015 and 2018	In house / volunteers - one day	
Selectively fell 6 m^3/ha from Comps 2a and 4 at Black Spout Wood.	2016 and 2021	Contractors – one day	
Remove sycamore at Black Spout Wood.	2016 and 2021	Contractors – one and half days	
Plant/protect regeneration of oak, pine and rowan at Black Spout Wood.	2017 and 2022	Contractors – half day	

Removal of Rhododendron at Luncarty.	2015 and 2016	Contractors – one and half days	
Felling of two trees to make a seat and play structures at Luncarty.	2015	In house team – half day	
Encourage an understory by protecting natural regeneration with tubes at Lady Mary's Walk.	2015 then every three years	Volunteers – half day	
Remove non-native invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam at Lady Mary's Walk.	2015, 2016, 2017 then every three years	Contractors – half day	
Maintain views along the river by removing regenerated trees along bank at Lady Mary's Walk.	2015 then every three years	Contractors half day	
Remove non-native regeneration such as sycamore at Lady Mary's Walk.	2015 then every three years	Contractors half day	
Removal of sycamore regeneration at MacRosty Park.	2015 and 2019	In house team / contractors one day	
Remove sycamore regeneration at Puddock Wood.	2015 then every three years	Contractors / in house team / volunteers one day	
Protect oak, birch and ash regeneration if required at Puddock Wood.	2015 then every three years	Volunteers / in house team half day	
Thin out sycamore (and ash if required) at Puddock Wood.	2015 then every four years	Contractors / in house team one day	
Remove trees that block the view from the summit at Knock of Crieff.	2015, then every two years.	Contractors – one day	
Remove non-native species such as Sycamore and Beech at Knock Of Crieff	2015 then every two years	Contractors – two days	
Cut back/ spray bracken and Broom from heath land areas at Knock Of Crieff.	2015 – 2018	Contractors – one day	
Plant Scots pine in areas cleared	2016 then	Contractors /	

of beech and sycamore at Knock Of Crieff.	every three years	volunteers one day	
Clear fell conifers at Provost's Walk.	2014	Standing timber sale	Grants available
Replace failed trees at Provost's Walk.	2015	Contractors – two days	
Replant felled areas with mixed native broadleaves and Scots pine at Provost's Walk.	2015	Contractors -two days	Grants available