Appendices

Contents

Appendix I: Consultation Record

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Concept Questionnaire Questions	Consultee Comment	Forest District Response
Local Community Initial Concept Consultation Drop-in events 5th Mar 2016 - Campsie Memorial Hal, Lennoxtown - 12-4pm 9th Mar 2016 - Campsie Glen Community Hall, Haughhead (*comments from conversations, questionnaires and survey grouped related to topic*) responses received:13 online / 7 paper	09/02/2016 - 01/04/2016	04/04/2016			
			General		
			Any other feedback on the draft concept?	"The initial plans look promising." "Plans look great, thanks you ☺"	We are pleased that the concept plans are being overwhelmingly well received by the local community.
			Landscape		
			What do you like about the site?	"Views" "The view of the Campsie's and the view of the surrounding area from across the site."	The design takes care to preserve views both into and out-with the site of the Campsie Fells and surrounding area. Rides and open areas as well as low growing shrubs will act to maintain and frame

				“Views up to the Campsie’s and back up the glen, space and openness” “Lovely views from the wood.” “The view at the moment” “It's in a beautiful location with spectacular views and relatively clean air.” “The space is quiet, and full of wild life“ “That it is treeless” “Everything” “It is right on my doorstep” “Close proximity” “Natural Area” “It protects the countryside”	views. The design preserves many of the important views and a woodland we would hope will enhance the views and trees will function to reduce air pollution. The tranquility of the site should be enhanced with a woodland with biodiversity also enhanced by woodland habitat. Whilst the site will no longer be treeless a significant proportion of the site will remain open for landscape and biodiversity.
			Are there any	“More varied features in the	Unplanted buffers along burns

			improvements or changes that you would like to see on the site?	landscape. It would be nice to have the stream(s) look more natural"	may allow future burn realignment to naturalise their flow.
			Are there any changes you would not like to see?	"Concerns about change in views…" "I am worried about tree's being planted too close to the surrounding properties, obscuring views and blocking out light" "We do not want anything planted at the rear of our property" "obstruction of the view from my garden of the Campsie hills" "No planting of any kind at the rear of the properties on Crow Road." "Protect views of all nearby residents" "Too much growth and expanse of trees which would obscure the views" "Trees growing to 60feet tall changing views and limiting bio-diversity." "I wouldn't like to see too	As described previously the plan has been carefully designed to protect views for surrounding residents, and for visitors so they can still see the Campsie fells and other vistas. Only low growing shrubs will be used near properties so as to retain views from properties to Campsie fells. 88% of the trees will be broadleaved which are less tall than conifers. Some soft conifers (12%) are being planted and they would be

				many conifer plantations" "I hope that the tree planting will not favour dark conifers and pines; I hope to see other deciduous planting that can offer up colour and a changing landscape throughout the season." "Major drainage operations"	located intentionally so their height difference to broadleaves is minimised e.g. on slopes and hollows. The design has been careful to make sure the scale of the Campsie fells is not diminished. No major drainage is planned
			Any other feedback on the draft concept?	"I am delighted to see the land being used for something other than grazing cattle and sheep."	We are pleased that our proposal to change the land use is favourable.
			Access		
			What do you use the site for?	"I live in Crosshouse Cottage which is right in the centre of the plot"	
			Do you think you would use Balcorrach Wood in the future?	"If there was a path which replaced the water logged and narrow path which runs adjacent to the main road, and avoided an awkward road crossing by running north west from the new roundabout It would be a definite improvement."	The trees as they grow should reduce water run-off and make the site drier. It is also hoped that in future path improvements will be made to benefit access.
			Are there any improvements or changes that you would like to see on the site?	"The land is currently given over to grazing animals." "It is very muddy and difficult to access because of stock in fields and	As above As above

				fences/gates" "Better road access to Crosshouse Cottage" "I would like to see cycle access available eventually, linking up with the existing national cycle route 755 which follows the Kelvin Railway Path." "Pathways for walking	 Improvements to the entrance to Crosshouse Rd. have recently been made and some drainage issues have also recently been fixed improving matters. As above As above
			Are there any changes you would not like to see?	There is no need for a car park. There is plenty of parking in the village. Visitors from out with the area should be encouraged to use facilities in the village." "I would not like to see an increase in private motor-car access. People who live along the A891 (including me) already have enough difficulty with safe access and egress because of sightlines and speeding traffic. There should be promotion of existing public transport links at Campsie	We have no intentions to provide car parking for the site. As above

				Glen." "Parking places would only encourage professional dog walker who have scared off the general public from Lennox Forest as they don't clean up after the dogs."	As above
			Do you think parking would add value to this site?	Online Survey No - 100% Paper Survey Yes -15% No - 85%	We have no intentions to provide car parking for the site.
			Any other feedback on the draft concept?	"It's not too hilly, will be easily accessible and the walks look interesting and the planting of the woodland will attract wildlife." "If you decide not to incorporate parking it is important that good links are made to the Strathblane cycle path"	We are pleased our plans meet with your approval; our potential paths should enable potential future linkage with the cycle path.
			Environment		
			What do you like about the site?	"Watching the birds using the site - Pheasants, migrating Geese, Wood Pigeons and Birds of Prey."	
			Are there any improvements or changes that you would like to see on the site?	"More open spaces for wild flowers" "Wild Flower Meadow and Orchard - with a focus on attracting and helping to support declining bee populations, alongside other	

				insects." "addition of a wild meadow, exotic trees perhaps in the community area" "a couple of ponds for wildfowl" "I would like to see more native hedgerows and native broadleaved trees planted to encourage native wildlife. If this was the case, there would need to be consideration of wildlife corridors over/under the A891 as most of the traffic passing the site exceeds the 30mph speed limit." "Wild Flowers" "Natural untouched areas"	
			Any other feedback on the draft concept?	"how it will affect wildlife, in terms of bio-diversity. It looks like over-foresting"	As the land use is currently agriculture and has been grazed for well over a century there is currently little of significant habitat value and that which there is will be preserved e.g. lowland fen, hedgerows, dykes etc. 40% of the site will remain unplanted so there is a good diversity of land use.

				"Good variation of tree species." "variety of trees" "utilizes the site well with a varied selection of tree species" "I have a small colony of pipistrelle bats in my garden as well as frogs and toads who breed here and now have nuthatches (a local rarity) visiting my feeders. It would be great to increase the habitat to accommodate them and other native species." "As long as natural concepts are continued, it seems a good use of ground"	The species proposed have been chosen to suit the site conditions and should provide a diversity of shapes and colours through the seasons enhancing biodiversity also. The proposed woodland will create important habitat for a variety of flora and fauna.
			Recreation		
			Do you use the site?	Online Survey Yes - 100% Yes Paper Survey Yes - 60% No - 40% "No, ground very wet" "Not really sure of accessibility with children"	As previously mentioned the developing trees should improve site drainage. Future management of paths and potential surfacing of

					paths will improve access.
			What do you use the site for?	“Relaxation“	A woodland will be an excellent relaxing space to enjoy
				“Walking”	The public right of way will be preserved with various other mown paths providing an extended network of walking routes to enjoy
				“A walk along the right of way”	
				“Used it once only to see what the walk was like but it wasn't very interesting and got very muddy so I haven't been back”	As above
				“Dog walking“	
				“Cycling”	Mown paths may in future be surfaced to improve bicycle access.
				“Children play here”	Woodland provides excellent natural play setting for children
				“Sledging.”	Whilst much of the site will give way to tree there should still be areas of opportunity to enjoy such pursuits.
				“Photography”	A woodland should provide fantastic opportunities for photographs through the seasons.
			Do you think you would use Balcorrach Wood in	All respondents – Yes	We are pleased at the response

			the future?	"I think everyone interested in nature and walking will use it once the paths are built and trees planted" "For walking perhaps" "As per plans, definitely"	As above As above As above
			Are there any changes you would not like to see?	"Not another play park in the community area..... There is already one in the park next to the football pitches" "Not another play area, encourage litter & vermin" "something should be put in place to prevent professional dog walkers ruining the place with dog faeces."	We don't have any particular plans for the community area which will be determined in the future following consultation with the local community. As above We are working on this issue which affects some of our other woodlands with a view to minimising this issue.
			Any other feedback on the draft concept?	"Creating a new attraction in East Dunbartonshire for people to walk (and hopefully) cycle slowly with their children." "My son aged 4 – thinks it's awesome. Cycling routes would be welcome."	As previously described Thanks you
			Community		
			What do you like about the site?	"Great positive development for the local community.	We are please you approve
			Are there any	"Picnic areas"	This is something that we may

			improvements or changes that you would like to see on the site?	“There would ideally be more rigorous traffic calming measures, especially if there was an increase in children accessing the area.”	explore in time if there is sufficient demand and resources allow us. We will continue to work with the local authority to deal with such issues.
			Are there any changes you would not like to see?	“concerned with the location on the community area and what exactly this site will entail” “I feel that the current planned community site is very close to the surrounding houses - on a large site is it necessary to be so close. I would not think having a play area on this site would be necessary as there are already ample play Area's within the vicinity.” “Keep it as natural and peaceful as possible. we sit in our garden quite often which is near the community area and we wound not want to be over looked by a play park or car park with traffic”	We have an obligation from the local planning dept to provide a recreational woodland to the south east of the site and therefore a suggested community area has been located here. We don’t however have any particular plans for the community area which will be determined in the future following consultation with the local community. It may be that the community is happy to have a low key development e.g a wild flower meadow.

				"A play area in the community section will be over looked by houses and will disrupt the tranquillity of the area. As mentioned there is already a play area next to the football pitches which already has swings, climbing basketball, football etc." "Unsure about best use of proposed community area" "Nothing that would not be in keeping with village construct"	
			Any other feedback on the draft concept?	"Fruit trees in the community area would be nice" "As I said at the event in Campsie Memorial Hall today it would be an added bonus if part of the area could be given over to coppice and perhaps a trial of Miscanthus for biomass." "Wood for stove." "What I have heard today are impressive especially community space"	We will consult with the local community and council to determine if this is something the community would want. Areas of hazel will provide coppicing opportunities in future but the design doesn't propose any large scale coppicing Future thinning operations will produce firewood We are pleased the plan with meets your approval

				"Benches & Litter bins" "This area will add to the village where amenities are lacking."	There are no initial plans for these but these options may be explored in future. We hope the local community will use and appreciated the site.
			Education		
			What do you use the site for?	"The side of the site allows me to take full classes of primary and secondary pupils from the Strathblane Cyclepath to Clachan of Campsie by bicycle to visit Campsie Glen"	We hope that the wood will be well used and we would encourage more educational and recreational use of the site.
			Are there any improvements or changes that you would like to see on the site?	"One or two shelters would be good too with information boards." "Educational area"	We don't have any immediate plans but we may explore these options in future. We have dedicated forest school areas in some of our other woods and something similar could be a possibility.
			Any other feedback on the draft concept?	"I would very much support the idea of using the land to educate children (and others!) about the natural world."	As above
David Barrington - local resident	19/12/2015	21/12/2015		I live in Lennoxtown directly opposite the above proposed woodland. I recently received a leaflet requesting local engagement in the	Thank you for your email and suggestions on the site. You will be pleased to hear that the aspects you have highlighted have all been considered in the concept I am in the process of

				development of the woodland plan. I am delighted that after over 50 years of uncertainty over the plot the village now has a permanent solution and one which will add value to the wider community space. It is hugely reassuring that the Forestry Commission has taken ownership of the site, following a very disappointing show from the Local Authority and the previous owners (MacTaggart & Mickel) in delivering on their previous commitments to the site and community. The response of the community to the outrageous planning proposals last year highlights the importance of this site to the village and the overwhelming desire for a better long-term solution to be achieved. Having lived opposite the site for some time, I offer a few very general observations. At the moment the majority	developing e.g. creating a predominantly broadleaved woodland rather than conifer, judicious use of low growing shrubs behind properties to maintain views of the Campsie fells as well as carefully designed rides between planted areas also retaining and framing views. I am also mindful of the potential of the site to be used by the community for recreation e.g. walking and cycling as well as its importance in functioning as a link between Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie and beyond. We are aiming to consult with the local community and stakeholders early next year for their input and suggestions. Our communities' team will be leading on the consultation which will likely be by way of at least one drop in session held in the area as well as posting the concept (map and visualisations) on our web consultation page where you will be able to send us comment via an online survey. I will make sure you are updated when we have confirmed dates and venues etc.

				of the area is very waterlogged, this is fairly frequent due to run off from the Campsie Fells and the high water table. My feeling is this will need to be considered in future plans, as it may be possible to create a water feature (pond/lake) or perhaps some drainage may need to be considered? The local area is quite well populated with wildlife – deer, owls, squirrels, foxes, hares, buzzards, pheasants, hedgehogs are all commonplace and I have seen kingfishers, geese, game birds (snipe/woodcock?) too. I would hope the woodland would further encourage such species. The southern boundary of the property backs onto a tree conservation area, part of the old Lennox Castle estate. This contains a large number of well-established broadleaved deciduous trees as well as indigenous Scots firs. Although slow growing, I	

				would hope such trees would be well represented in preference to the quick growing pine plantations often seen on such land. The views of the Campsie Fells from the houses backing into the site are one of the key aesthetic points of the village, so I would request these views are maintained and trees are not planted right up to the site boundaries with domestic dwellings. Linked to all this, I would hope the woodland will have walking and cycling trails and picnic areas for the public, which can link to those already in existence. A pathway to Clachan of Campsie and the Fells would be useful (where there is a cafe, cycle shops, etc.). There are also walking and cycle paths to Strathblane etc. via the disused railway line south of the A891. I hope this is useful to you and I look forward to hearing more about this exciting development.	

				Thanks for the notification and opportunity to contribute.	
George Robertson - local resident	18/12/2015	21/12/2016		I read with interest that the Forestry Commission had recently acquired the land around Hole Farm and as a resident in this area I am very supportive of this development….my only concern at this stage would be related to trees being located too close to our property that it would impact adversely on the quality of light reaching the house	Although my concept still needs some tweaking I can tell you at this stage that it has been mindful of the potential effects a new woodland would have on neighbouring properties e.g. light levels, views etc. and with this in mind any planting behind properties suggested in the concept would be of low growing shrub species such as hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder or dog rose etc. to retain views and not reduce the light getting to properties. I am producing some visualisations from various points around the site including Glen Road for the concept consultation which will hopefully enable you to see what effect the concept woodland would have on views when the trees are reaching maturity around 50 years from now.
Ann Middlemiss – local resident	09/01/2016	11/01/2016		I am delighted that the Forestry Commission has taken ownership of	Thanks you for your email. I am in the process of designing a concept for the site which will

				Balcorrach Woodland. I live very close to the proposed woodland and have some small pieces of woodland on my own land. I am interested in receiving any updates on the plans, preferably by email.	be available to view on our website within the next few weeks where you will also be able to provide any comment you may have. Alternatively we will also be holding a couple of drop in consultation events in the area to give the local community the opportunity to ask any questions they may have directly to us and provide us with their feedback.
Phil & Margaret Wadsley – local residents	11/01/2016	11/01/2016		As inhabitants of Lennoxtown, with keen interest in our environment, my wife and I are pleased that the Forestry Commission has taken over this area, which our property on Crow Road borders. We shall be very interested to see you plans and proposals for the development of this area. It has a many species of wildlife, including a vast range of birds, from wrens, robins and other thrushes, sparrows, dunnocks, various finches, tits, pippets and warblers, common and grey wagtails, common woodpecker, sky larks, oyster catchers, lapwing,	Thanks you for your email. I am in the process of designing the initial concept for the site which will be available to view on our website within the next few weeks where you will also be able to provide any comment you may have. Alternatively we will also be holding a couple of drop in consultation events in the area to give the local community the opportunity to ask any questions they may have directly to us and provide us with their feedback. As you correctly highlighted in your email, the area is rich in wildlife, with fantastic views and potential for recreational and community benefit. In designing my concept I have

				corvids, geese, buzzards and the occasional red kite! There are also mammals, from voles, through squirrels, to foxes and deer, which inhabit this area, along with insect life, especially bees. As we are aware that there are industrial uses for woodland, with benefits in terms of renewable carbon neutrality and improvements in stability from control of drainage, we shall be interested in your proposals in these areas, and how the area will look in the coming years, with planting of deciduous and/or evergreen trees. We shall also wish to look at positive development of local industry, evolving from the woodland, including, personally, purchase of logs for our stove! Looking forward to the future discussions and visibility of plans.	been mindful of such aspects and have been careful to try and balance these aspects to create a woodland which will hopefully become a great asset for the community providing recreational, health, educational and aesthetic benefits. My concept is also concerned with retaining views, enhancing biodiversity, stabilising soils, improving drainage whilst providing sustainable produce for many years to come.
Phil & Margaret Wadsley – local residents	06/03/2016	07/03/2016		The plans are interesting.	Thanks for your comments which I will add to our

				My wife and I do have a few concerns about the longer term effect on both the view from our garden and that for some wildlife which occupies the area. I have attached a fairly a simple version of how the view can be affected by the proposed woodland, using the existing mature tree on the land beside the ruined house. We believe the complete forest will adversely affect geese, which regularly "graze" on the knolls behind our garden. Ducks, heron, oyster-catchers and lapwing also land on this ground. We feel some open land should be allowed, within the plan, to cater for the wider range of bird life and other mammals and invertebrates. An area of what was open pasture will also encourage wild flowers, with benefits to bees and other insect life. Trust these points can be	consultation record. If you are coming along on Wednesday night I'd be happy to discuss these further with you. In the meantime I'll address the points you have made. With regards the view from your property, I can fully appreciate your concerns about how this might be affected by the proposals set out in the concept. By way of some further explanation the concept suggests low growing shrub species directly behind your property which shouldn't restrict your current view growing to only a few feet in height and the area of wet woodland north of this would be planted at relatively low densities. The broadleaves on the rise would change your view over time but probably not significantly for approx. 10-15 years but as you will see from visualisation 9 views of the hill slopes to the north and the wider context of the view should be retained but I would concede the view would alter in time but hopefully not in such a way as to lose surrounding context.

				considered and discussed at open meeting.	In terms of geese, oyster catcher, lapwing and skylark, the change in predominant land use would be gradual a one and we envisage the continued use of the ground by these species for a few years to come. The habitat in its current form has no particular local rarity value so in time these species will find plenty of alternative grazing/breeding spots in the surrounding area. It would also be expected that an increase in species that use woodlands would occur across the site. Ducks and heron should continue to use any areas of pooling water and burns etc. as they aren't put off by tree cover. You will see in the concept map that I have left an area to the north of Capieston House which regularly floods as open with a view to allowing it to develop as open wetland. The afforestation the concept shows accounts for approximately 62% of the site with 38% remaining open (~32 Ha) which will broaden the range of habitat types within the site in turn broadening its

					biodiversity and as you say encouraging not only woodland flora and fauna but also species including the invertebrate examples you have given which are more associated with open areas. With regards deer, we would discourage deer within the site until such time as the trees are established after which the negative impact they would have by way of browsing and fraying would have reduced and they would become part of the picture to be appreciated within the wood. I hope that answers some of your queries but please feel free to get back to me with anything else I will also be at the event at Haughhead on Wednesday night if you wish to attend.
Richie Morrow – local resident	10/03/2016	10/03/2016		We have recently seen the proposal for Balcorrach Wood. It looks great and will benefit our local area immensely but I have a few queries re the “Community Area” and its location Can you clarify what exactly the Community Area will	Thanks for that, your view on the community area is understood and I will add your comments to our consultation record. As I mentioned previously you will be able to add your voice to how the area should be used as we go along. I should say we are legally bound by our inherited

				entail and its exact location? Attached is a map of our house and garden and we're concerned that this location for the CA will overlook our property. I unfortunately missed the community meetings but I would like some further clarification as I feel this will affect our views of the Campsie's and surrounding area which was one of the major factors in purchasing the property a year ago	obligation to provide an area for the community in the south east of the site and the local authority won't allow us to relocate it elsewhere in the site I'm afraid. Hopefully whatever ideas come forward will be in keeping with the area, provide a benefit to the community and be visually unobtrusive. We'll look to keep as wide a spectrum of stakeholders as happy as we can.
Robert Johnstone - Crosshouse	14/03/2016	18/03/2016		Concerns over the type of planting to the west and southwest and there effects on views Concerns over their private water supply Overhead power cables/ Telephone line	The woodland to be planted to the west and south-west is broadleaves and policy (mixed woodland) which would be broadleaves and conifers. The design has been careful to retain views from Crosshouse in various directions, north to the Campsie fells , west to Clachan of Campsie, south west to Haughhead and partially south east towards Lennoxtown. If we know the exact route of the water supply we can make sure we don't plant along it.

				They would like to install new services (gas and public water) What is happening with the access road as currently vehicle access is only available as far as my property concerned that your proposed series of roads will encourage the local trail and quad bikers. What are your proposals for stopping things like this happening?	The concept design leaves a 30m buffer long OHPL for trees and a 12m buffer for low growing shrubs. Our utilities map indicates where the present gas and water supply lines run and where access may be had. It would be incumbent on the owner of Crosshouse Cottage to investigate with the local gas and water provider connection options and approach us for access. This may be better done in advance of planting rather than require future tree removal in potential compensation to the district. The road which leads up to the house should remain as it is and the indicative trails that lead to it are simply rides (gaps between the plantings) which visitors to the site may use to walk through the site. Initially they would be mown paths with the potential to be upgraded to surfaced whin-dust paths. The site would most likely initially be deer fenced to establish the crop with access via kissing gates for the public. Once the fencing

					is removed we would use a variety of means to restrict antisocial access to the site e.g. quads and trail bikes.
East Dunbartonshire Council – Summary of concept responses from various departments.	21/04/2016	27/04/2016		The proposed woodland planting is in line with the Clydeplan forest and woodland strategy 2016 which encourages planting in the lowland valley which encourages climate change adaption, such as flood risk alleviation, and farm diversification. It categorises the eastern part of the site as potential for woodland expansion. It is also in line with the Central Scotland Forest Strategy 2012 which aims to increase levels of woodland in the Campsie Fells foothills and categorises the eastern area as preferred urban fringe and western area as potential or for woodland expansion. This is subject to design to protect, mitigate and enhance the quality of the local environment, in particular the Local Landscape Area sensitivities and impact on agricultural land to the west.	As noted the concept takes into account the various strategies and the plan itself will protect, mitigate and enhance the quality of the local environment. In relation to this the heritage features within the site have been mapped and assessed for inclusion in the site management; these include lines of veteran trees, hedgerows, old buildings and tramlines.
				A landscape and visual	FES's Senior Landscape

				impact assessment is required to demonstrate that the planting will not have an adverse impact upon the character of the wider landscape character area – the lowland valley or adjacent moorland hills.	Architect has carried out a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) which includes what the impacts of the proposed woodland creation would be and providing recommendations as to best avoid any potentially negative impacts.
				The proposed woodland planting should be designed to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts on the special features of the Local Landscape Areas on and adjacent to the site. The site is in the Glazert Valley which has special qualities which include diversity of topography, including glacial features, and the features of farmland and steadings, particularly when viewed from the core path between Clachan of Campsie and Lennoxtown. It is adjacent to the Campsie Fells where the special qualities include: diversity of landscape experience, striking views and the distinctive landform of the Campsie fault, particularly when viewed from the Crow Road.	The LVIA report referred to above addresses the impacts of the proposed woodland and makes recommendations on how to mitigate against any potentially negative impacts.
				The proposed woodland planting should be designed	The LVIA report referred to above addresses the impacts

				to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts on the special features of the Local Landscape Areas on and adjacent to the site. The site is in the Glazert Valley which has special qualities which include diversity of topography, including glacial features, and the features of farmland and steadings, particularly when viewed from the core path between Clachan of Campsie and Lennoxtown. It is adjacent to the Campsie Fells where the special qualities include: diversity of landscape experience, striking views and the distinctive landform of the Campsie fault, particularly when viewed from the Crow Road.	of the proposed woodland and makes recommendations on how to mitigate against any potentially negative impacts.
				Detailed woodland planting proposals and the landscape and visual impact assessment should take into consideration the following guidelines: the Clydeplan Forest and Woodland Strategy 2016, spatial guidance, guidance for the lowland valley landscape character areas, priorities for woodland expansion; Central Scotland Forest	The draft plan will refer to and consider the various strategies, guidance and assessments listed in order to produce a detailed planting proposal. We will use species appropriate to the site conditions and local character which includes non-native species such as beech, sycamore (named in the landscape guidance as appropriate to the character) and we reserve the option to

				Strategy 2012, indicative local opportunities for the Campsie/ Kilsyth Foothills; and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Character Appraisal's 1999, Trees and Woodland Planning and Management Guidelines - rugged moorland hills and broad valley lowland landscape types. Planting should conserve existing trees and tree groups and accentuate natural burns.	plant these and/or other site suitable non-natives if appropriate to the objectives for the site. The existing mature trees will continue to be managed and if any future tree-safety work is required on these then bat surveys will be carried out.
				A Hydrology study should be carried out, in consultation with SEPA, to identify how planting of the site can contribute to climate change adaption by including natural flood risk attenuation. SEPA and the Council should be consulted on the detailed design of natural flood risk alleviation to ensure that the planting provides betterment in relation to flood risk and to explore potential funding.	We have consulted with Carla Ward, SEPA's River Basin Planning Co-ordinator/ EcoCo LIFE+ Glazert catchment officer, and have received action recommendations to consider which may improve ecological coherence and natural flood management.
				The existing right of way from Lennoxtown to Clachan of Campsie should be protected in its current route, the path and its setting enhanced and links made to potential new	We will continue to consult and liaise with EDC's Access Officer, Alistair Kyle. The ROW in its current route is being retained and protected with alternative paths options also being factored into the planting

				routes. In addition potential links between the woodland and the Strathkelvin Railway Path and car parking for users should be considered. Details about path specification and their long term maintenance should be provided. Consult with the Council's Access officer on design, which should cater for all non-motorised users, access arrangements during planting and maintenance and potential funding.	design. The suggested additional routes should have the potential to link to other path networks out-with the site.
				An ecological impact assessment and related studies into protected species and priority Local Biodiversity Action Plan species and important habitats should be carried out, to inform the design of the planting of the site. In particular key fen peatland/wetland should be left unplanted, rather than planted with wet woodland and existing hedges and dykes should be conserved with suitable buffers from tree planting on either side to prevent them being shaded out.	The EIA Determination will be carried out by Central Scotland Conservancy, and will be done through an EIA Determination application process in conjunction with the Land Management Plan. In relation to this FES District Environment staff have carried out walk over surveys of the site and reviewed National Biodiversity Network Gateway information. There are no Priority habitats or European protected species at this site that require open habitat management or special habitat protection. The existing mature trees will continue to be managed and if any future tree-safety work is required on

					these then bat surveys will be carried out. The wet area at Grid Ref: NS 6250 7867 is lowland fen habitat (the soil is mineral not peat) and will not be planted save some low density diffuse wet woodland around the edge. Further surveys are carried out just prior to operations to identify any species mitigation required such as otter resting places. Dykes will be conserved with suitable buffers. Most hedgerows will not be buffered with planting in close proximity as per our management practice at other approved schemes such as Auchlochan in South Lanarkshire. The habitat function of the hedgerows will eventually be replaced in a good many years to come by the surrounding woodland and this practice will lessen the negative landscape impact of retaining an unnatural geometric landform pattern in perpetuity. Until this time the hedgerows will continue to provide important habitat.
				A Transport Statement would be asked for to cover: the access strategy including the anticipated heavy goods vehicles routes	In terms of access for the initial establishment phase we will use our existing access to the site via the Hole Farm access off the A891 Glen Road.

				for vehicles and a discussion on the levels of traffic during the sites various phases.	This will provide access for a limited time to a few cars, small vans and most likely a tractor with trailer. Over the longer term we will look to create a permanent forest road off the A891. This will be done through the local planning application process. The expected usage of such a road would be for forestry machinery and timber haulage lorries to access for a period of a few weeks after the woodland reaches approximately 20 year of age and then for a similar duration every 5-10 years.
				A Woodland Management Plan should be prepared. In particular alternatives to deer fencing should be pursued due to their negative impact on the landscape, biodiversity and recreational access, particularly along the Crow Road. This should address the management of woodland, open areas and other habitats in the woodland.	The LVIA report highlights mitigation recommendations against the potential negative impacts of deer fencing which will be considered. The option for deer fencing must however remain, as this site may or may not be delivered through a framework contract, and if not then our Wildlife team may advise that deer fencing is the best approach.
				Rathmell Archaeology, the Council's archaeological advisors, should be consulted on what	Our Environment and Heritage Manager has discussed our concept and surveys this far with Thomas Rees at Rathmell

				archaeological records there are in the planting areas and how the design should protect these, in particular the dykes and remnant steadings.	who response can be read below: "I've had a look at the records we have and I don't have any additional sites known to us. The ruined farmstead of Capieston is particularly good and linking this in with the road (now abandoned track) falling from Clachan of Campsie down into the NW of Lennoxtown (as you've done) is an important part of the patterning of the settled/enclosed landscape – especially linking into the 19th century landscape. Sorry I cannot add any more to that which you already know!"
				The Central Scotland Green Network Trust should be consulted on the proposals as it can offer advice on planting design to help implement the guidelines in the Central Scotland Woodland Strategy and ensure that the planting provides and enhances green network opportunities for recreational access, biodiversity and natural flood risk alleviation.	Using the knowledge and experience of our highly experienced staff within the forest district as well as recommendations from other contributors e.g. SEPA and Rathmell Archaeology etc. and considering the information and guidance found in the various relevant strategies and guidance to this area it shouldn't be necessary to consult with CSGNT for further forestry advice.
				The layout and design of the	As part of the design process

				proposed woodland should consider potential future cumulative impacts with, relationship with and links to the planting suggested by the Scottish Agricultural College's proposed woodland on land to the north west of the site, adjacent to Campsie Glen.	we consider existing aspects of the site including the existing context of the site and should the neighbouring proposals move forward to approval we will of course consider these as part of our design. Until the neighbouring scheme is approved we must work on the basis of the status quo as it would be counterproductive to alter our plans to accommodate an unrelated scheme which may go through various iterations before approval or indeed have its approval refused.
				Further early detailed consideration should be given to identifying options for a site for a community growing space, in the eastern part of the area covered by a section 75 agreement related to the housing development at Lennox Castle Hospital. These options should consider suitability for an allotment and or an orchard, a vehicular access track and car parking directly from the A89. The Council's Place and Neighbourhood service, Civic Pride and Sustainability teams can	From our recent community consultations it was made clear that there is no demand or wish for the provision of public car parking at the site, in fact there was strong opposition to this in our survey and drop-in events. It was generally felt that this would detract from the site. FCS has no plans or funds in place to facilitate the construction and a parking area. We have no evidence or indication as yet that there is demand for community growing or orchards but this will be explored as part of our on-going engagement with the community. It is hoped that we

				provide further advice on community growing including: advice on the early infrastructure required, potential funding, public consultation methods, contacts within the local community and how to constitute a local community food growing group.	will be able to provide an area of the site close to Lennoxtown which the community can get actively involved in, influencing and determining its function and design. The recent concept consultation, however, didn't provide any indication as to any particular preference for this at this time.

Appendix II: General Management & Potential Projects

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue(s) raised	Forest District Response

Appendix III: Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling period	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Windthrow response	Adjustment to road lines	Designed open ground
FC Approval not normally required (record and notify FC)	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met	<10% of coupe size.	Up to 5 planting seasons after felling (allowing fallow periods for hylobius).	Change within species group E.g. Scots pine to birch, Non-native conifers e.g. Sitka spruce to Douglas fir, Non-native to native species (allowing for changes to facilitate Ancient Woodland policy).	**Low sensitivity area** Where windthrow represents more than 60% of the crop the area, including standing trees may, be felled plus up to 5Ha beyond in order to seek a windfirm edge.	**Low sensitivity area** Creation of turning points/ loading bays. Deviation of <100m either side of the predicted centre line of the road/ track. **High sensitivity area** Deviation <75m in either direction from centre of road/track.	Location of temporary open ground e.g. deer glades if still within overall open ground design Increase by 0.5 ha or 5% of area - whichever is less
Approval by exchange of letters and map		10-15% of coupe size.	5 years +	Change of coupe objective that is likely to be consistent with current policy (e.g. from productive to open, open to native species).	**Low sensitivity area** As above to include 5-10 Ha of standing crop to seek a windfirm edge. Areas where windthrow represents <60%. **High sensitivity area** Areas where windthrow represents <60%.	**Low sensitivity area** Deviation of 100-150m in either direction from centre of road/track. **High sensitivity area** Deviation of 75-100m in either direction from centre of road/track.	Increase of 0.5 ha to 2ha or 10% - whichever is less Any reduction in open ground
Approval by formal plan amendment	Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period Advance felling into current or 2nd 5 year period	>15% of coupe size.		Major change of objective likely to be contrary to policy, E.g. native to non-native species, open to non-native,	**Low sensitivity area** As above. Windblown area + an area>10 Ha to find a windfirm edge. **High sensitivity area** Felling of standing trees beyond the area of windblow.	Deviations exceeding the above.	More than 2 ha or 10% Any reduction in open ground in sensitive areas Colonisation of open Areas agreed as critical

Appendix IV: Management Plan Brief

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coillteearachd Alba

Balcorrach Wood

Land Management Plan Brief

Contents

1. Key Background Information

- Balcorrach Wood covers an area of 113 hectares of formerly agricultural grazing land situated on the lower slopes of the Camspie Hills between Clachan of Campsie and Lennoxtown in East Dunbartonshire.

- This is a new management plan which will establish and deliver management objectives that relate to the Scottish Lowlands Forest District Strategic Plan.

- Elevation rises from 70m Above Sea Level (ASL) where the site runs by the A891 public road to the south west up to 160m ASL where the site runs below the B822 Crow Road to the north. Relatively fertile soils, both Brown earths [FC soil code: 1] and Brown surface-water gleys [FC soil code: 7b] predominate across the site.

- The prevailing warm, moist climate is conducive to the continued potential for good growth of a wide variety of tree species, aided by the topography providing a reasonably sheltered site. Climate change predictions suggest that the climate will become generally warmer, with drier summers and wetter winters which should be borne in mind.

- Other than some remnant mature broadleaved shelter belt trees and some shrub hedgerows the site is unplanted.

- Current access to the site is via the Public Right Of Way through the site which links Clachan or Campsie with Lennoxtown and also links Capiestone House to Glen Road. The accesses are the farm tracks which are metalled in places and others are no more than stock travel routes. The current access is not ideal for recreational purposes and operational access could be improved by a dedicated forest road.

- The site is seldom used by the local communities of Clachan of Campsie or Lennoxtown this is most likely as the public right of way is very muddy for significant portions of the route and enters fields currently being used for stock grazing.

- Landscape design will be an important consideration as new woodland would present a visual change to the views of the lower Campsie Hill slopes to those currently experienced from various points to the south. Any planting design would need to be sensitive to the surrounding woodland character.

- There are no known significant heritage features within the site other than the remnants of the former Capieston Farm House and various drystone farm walls. A desk based survey and a walkover survey should suffice as per the guidance on Pre-Forestry establishment on improved ground in the guidance note '*Planning and the Local Authority Archaeology Service (2014)'*.

- The site's network of hedgerows, comprised mostly of hawthorn, provide an important habitat for native wildlife which may include some of the following species:
  - Insects and arachnids such as Hawthorn Shield Beetle (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale)*, Earwig (*Forficula auricularia)*, Common Flower Beetle (*Anthocoris nemorum)*, Bumblebees, Cockchafers (*Melolontha melolontha)*, Devil's coach horse beetle (*Ocypus olens)*, Violet ground beetle (*Carabus violaceus)*, Harvestman, Garden spider, Peacock butterflies (*Inachis io*), Lacewing, Ladybird.
  - Birds such as Wren, Blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) and other thrushes (including Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Redwings (*Turdus iliacus*) and Fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*)), Greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), Yellowhammers (*Emberiza citronella*), Chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*), Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*).
  - Reptiles such as the Slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*).
  - Amphibians such as the Common toad (*Bufo bufo*).
  - Mammals such as the Wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*).

2. Strategic Priorities

The work of FES is guided by the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006, which set out seven Key Themes:

- *Climate Change*
- *Timber*
- *Business Development*
- *Community Development*
- *Access & Health*
- *Environmental Quality*
- *Biodiversity*

Since 2006 the purpose of the estate has evolved slightly and has been re-characterised in: The Role of Scotland's National Forest Estate and Strategic Directions 2013 – 2016, which sets out six aspirations that the National Forest Estate is:

- ***Healthy*** - achieving good environmental and silvicultural condition in a changing climate
- ***Productive*** - providing sustainable economic benefits from the land
- ***Treasured***- as a multi-purpose resource that sustains livelihoods, improves quality of life, and offers involvement and enjoyment
- ***Accessible*** - local woodlands and national treasures that are well promoted, welcoming and open for all
- ***Cared for*** - working with nature and respecting landscapes, natural and cultural heritage
- ***Good value*** - exemplary, effective and efficient delivery of public benefits

In light of the new national strategic directions, Scottish Lowlands Forest District revised the District Strategic Plan, producing the Scottish Lowlands Forest District Strategic Plan (2014-2017), which draws on the six aspirations and sets out the key national commitments and what district specific actions are to be taken to achieve them.

In preparing the Brief and Objectives for this Land Management Plan (LMP), issues were considered against these revised 'Key Commitments' and assessed for their importance. Those most relevant to Balcorrach Wood are set out below.

3. Key Drivers & Draft Management Objectives

On the basis of the key information, and given the considerations outlined above, a series of drivers have been identified in order to produce the management objectives proposed for Balcorrach Wood.

Key Aspiration – Healthy

In order to help tackle greenhouse gas emissions and as part of the national policy of reducing CO_2 in the atmosphere, woodland contributes to this objective by way of the carbon already stored in existing woodland and from sequestering further carbon into existing and new woodlands which creates social benefits by keeping that carbon out of the atmosphere.

Woodland also contributes to sustainable flood management, protecting both soil and water resources.

Management Objectives:

- *Establish new woodland using various site suitable species which will provide resilience to the possible effects of predicted climate change, the potential threats from pests and disease as well as helping to protect hill slope soils from erosion and run off into the wider water catchment.*

Key Aspiration – Productive

Woodland contributes to and underpins a sustainable forest products industry providing consistent and reliable timber supply for timber processing and wood fuel investments.

Management Objectives:

- *Establish woodland of predominantly broadleaved species to be managed productively which will provide timber suitable for niche markets through appropriate silviculture and tending as well as the firewood market.*
- *Provide suitable operational access by creating a new forest road with turning area and provision for future roadside timber stacking.*
- *Provide suitable crop protection from likely herbivore damage.*

Key Aspirations – Treasured and Accessible

Welcoming and well-managed woodlands provide benefits in and around communities and where health and community need is greatest. New woodland can help support rural development and local businesses.

Management Objectives:

- *Develop contacts within, and involvement of, the local communities, schools and businesses in developing opportunities such as e.g. gardening projects, orchards, promoting volunteering and skills opportunities and exploring potential partnership ventures.*
- *Consult with the local community on what recreational provision they would wish to have within the site, particularly next to Lennoxtown where an inherited Section 75 obligation exists to provide the community with some green space.*
- *New planting design will include rides facilitating informal visitor movement between Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie and providing future options for a more formal path network.*

Key Aspiration – Cared for

Woodland can enhance urban areas by improving landscapes such as diversifying farmed landscapes.

Management Objectives:

- *Create woodland sympathetic to the local character of the surrounding landscape e.g. include a 'policy wood' east of the corresponding Schoenstatt woodland across the road; create a, visually and texturally, diverse woodland including an element of conifer.*
- *Where practical preserve views enjoyed by neighbouring properties and using good design create interesting transitions and view through and out with the new woodland.*
- *Protect any known historic features.*
- *Retain the habitat network of hedgerows and integrate these into a more organic, less geometric planting design.*
- *Retain the large former avenue trees for biodiversity e.g. bats and future deadwood.*

Appendix V: Objective Appraisal, Monitoring & Evaluation

The table below helps determine and communicate how to appraise the Land Management Plan Proposals and how to monitor the progress of the Land Management Plan as the proposals are implemented as forest operations on the ground.

Key Aspiration	**Objective**	**Assessable Criteria**	**Appraisal Method**	**Monitoring Method**	**Monitor Where**	**Monitor When**	**Monitor Who**	**Record Monitoring Where**	**Evaluation.** *How does the Appraisal and Monitoring method inform current & future proposals? If you cannot answer this question then the methods may not be appropriate.*
Healthy	Establish new woodland using various site suitable species which will provide resilience to the possible effects of predicted climate change, the potential threats from pests and disease as well as helping to protect river bank slope soils from erosion and run off into the wider water catchment.	Establishment and Species mix	Species types, proportions & distributions	Site survey SCDB Query	Onsite SCDB	After operations and at appropriate intervals e.g. mid-term and 10 year reviews	Planning Forester	Against the LMP	Monitoring the establishment success, species proportions and distributions will inform the planning forester as to whether the plan is working and whether adjustments are required allowing the district to adjust expectations and business plan for alternative management methods.
Productive	Establish woodland of predominantly broadleaved species to be managed productively which will provide timber suitable for niche markets through appropriate silviculture and tending as well as the firewood market.	Timber production	Production Forecast	Record post thin figures	Onsite Sales Recording Package	After operations and at appropriate intervals e.g. mid-term and 10 year reviews	FM WIAT Forester	Against the LMP	Monitoring the volumes and quality of timber produced and levels of income received will allow the FM WIAT Forester to gauge what returns might be expected from future interventions and which customers would most likely be interested. This monitoring also allows the FM WIAT Forester and Planning Forester to gauge the quality of conditions and whether future crops might fetch improved revenues if managed correctly.

Productive	Provide suitable operational access by creating a new forest road with turning area and provision for future roadside timber stacking.	Access Road	Creation of new road and associated turning & stacking area	Road inspection	Onsite	After operations and at appropriate intervals e.g. mid-term and 10 year reviews	Planning Forester	Against the LMP & Forester Roads Module	By monitoring whether road infrastructure has been created the Planning Forester can demonstrate to stakeholders that the plan is delivering the desired outcomes and if not allow the Planning Forester to take the necessary steps to achieve the desired outcome.
Productive	Provide suitable crop protection from likely herbivore damage.	Establishment Deer Population	Leader Browsing	Site survey SCDB Query Deer Pop Survey Thermal Imaging Survey	Onsite SCDB Impact monitoring form	After operations and at appropriate intervals e.g. mid-term and 10 year reviews	FM WIAT Forester Wildlife Manager	SLFD Deer Overview Map Thermal Imaging Po Spread-sheet NNR Survey by SCL Impact monitoring form	Monitoring leader browsing by deer allows the FM WIAT Forester and Wildlife Manager to establish whether establishment is likely to be successful or whether further methods of protection are required and therefore factored in to business planning.
Treasured and Accessible	Develop contacts within, and involvement of, the local communities, schools and businesses in developing opportunities such as promoting volunteering and skills opportunities and exploring potential partnership ventures.	Local community involvement	Contact lists numbers. Event & Project activity	Contact list check, number of events / projects progressing	Within the local community	On-going engagement with local stakeholders	Recreation Manager/ Beat Forester	Against the LMP & Site contact list	By monitoring when and who we have contacted as well as what events and projects are being progressed the CRT Manager can evaluate how active we have been in engaging with local community as well as being better able to plan budgets for upcoming events/projects.
Treasured and Accessible	Consult with the local community on what recreational provision they would wish to have within the site, particularly next to Lennoxtown where an inherited Section 75 obligation exists to provide the community with some green space.	Visitor & Public Opinion	Survey users	Visitor survey(s)	Onsite Online In community	On-going engagement with communities and at appropriate intervals and mid-term and 10 year review	Recreation Manager	Evaluation Feedback Forms folders in CRT2 folder within Management unit folders	By seeking visitor feedback on the woods the recreation manager has the opportunity to learn where further improvements can be made and if necessary factored in to future business plans.

Treasured and Accessible	New planting design will include rides facilitating informal visitor movement between Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie and providing future options for a more formal path network.	Visitors & Public Opinion	Visitor numbers Survey users	Gate counters Visitor survey(s)	Onsite Online In community	On-going engagement with communities and at appropriate intervals for gate counts and mid-term and 10 year review	Recreation Manager	People counter data & Evaluation Feedback Forms folders in CRT2 folder within Management unit folders	By monitoring visitor numbers and seeking their feedback on the woods the recreation manager can evaluate whether numbers are increasing and if so if those increased numbers can be confidently attributed to improvements made to the visitor experience of the woods. Visitor feedback will also allow for opportunity to learn where further improvements can be made and if necessary factored in to future business plans.
Cared for	Create woodland sympathetic to the local character of the surrounding landscape e.g. include a 'policy wood' east of the corresponding Schoenstatt woodland across the road; create a, visually and texturally, diverse woodland including an element of conifer.	Species	Species types & distributions	Site survey SCDB Query	Onsite SCDB	After operations and at appropriate intervals e.g. mid-term and 10 year reviews	Planning Forester	Against the LMP	Monitoring the diversity of will allow for comparisons to be made with surrounding landscape and will inform the planning forester as to whether the plan is working and whether adjustments are required allowing the district to adjust expectations and business plan for alternative management methods.
Cared for	Where practical preserve views enjoyed by neighbouring properties and using good design create interesting transitions and view through and out with the new woodland.	Landscape	Survey users Fixed point photography	Visitor survey Visual record of change from fixed points by photograph	Onsite Online In community Agreed recorded locations	At mid-term and 10 year review At 5 year intervals	Planning Forester	Evaluation Feedback Forms folders in CRT2 folder within Management unit folders	By seeking visitor feedback on the woods the recreation manager can evaluate what affect over time the development of the crop has on visitor appreciation of the site and compare that with actual change from fixed point photography and also learn where further improvements can be made and if necessary factored in to future business plans.
Cared for	Protect any known historic features.	Heritage feature condition	Survey	Site survey	Onsite	After operations and at appropriate intervals e.g. mid-term and 10 year reviews	Environment & Heritage Manager	Heritage Module	By monitoring the condition of heritage features the Environment & Heritage Manager can determine if the woodland and/or site activity is having a detrimental effect on them which will inform them if plan is working and whether adjustments are required allowing the district to adjust expectations and business plan for alternative management methods.

Cared for	Retain the habitat network of hedgerows and integrate these into a more organic, less geometric planting design.	Species, Open Space & Habitat	Changes in land use over time	Site survey SCDB Query Forester Conservation Module Query	Onsite Aerial photos	At mid-term and 10 year review	Environment & Heritage Manager	Forester Conservation Module	By monitoring any changes in land use it can be determined whether there have been any unforeseen impacts from implementation of the plan e.g. have increased visitor numbers/ infrastructure had a detrimental effect on habitats or species or have operations damaged habitats.
Cared for	Retain the large former avenue trees for biodiversity e.g. bats and future deadwood.	Species	Species types & distributions	Site survey SCDB Query	Onsite SCDB	Before and after operations and at appropriate intervals e.g. mid-term and 10 year reviews	Planning Forester / Environment & Heritage Manager	Against the LMP	Monitoring the condition of veteran trees will allow for comparisons to be made and will inform the planning forester / Environment manager as to whether the plan is working and whether adjustments are required allowing the district to adjust expectations and business plan for alternative management methods.

Appendix VI: Maps

The table below lists the maps which support and form part of this Land Management Plan.

1 – Location
2 - Context
3a – Soils
3b – Climate
3c - Hydrology
3d – Landform Features
3e – Key Landscape Design Considerations
4a – Survey & Key Features
4b – Concept
5a – Planting Design and Species
5b – Future Access

Appendix VII: Landscape and Visual Impact Analysis Report

Balcorrach Wood, Lennoxtown – proposed new woodland
Analysis of the potential landscape and visual effects of establishing new woodland

1. Introduction
This report identifies and assesses the potential landscape and visual effects of establishing a new woodland on FES land on the lower slopes of the Campsie Fells on the north east outskirts of Lennoxtown.

The report covers the following topics:
- Landscape context
- The potential effect of proposed new woodland on landscape designations
- The potential effect of proposed new woodland on additional landscape characteristics
- Selecting viewpoints for assessment
- Summary of key issues

2. Landscape Context
The Campsie Fells are a prominent and distinctive hill range, which is easily recognisable from a distance. It is one of a range of hills which provide a broad northern backdrop to Glasgow and its wider conurbations.

The hills form the immediate backdrop to a number of small settlements and towns along their southern edge, including Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie, which lie on either side of this proposed new woodland. More locally, the lower slopes proposed for the new woodland form the foreground to the dramatic steep hill slopes, skyline and cliffs of Lairs.

The lower slopes lie within the Glazert valley and also contribute to the immediate setting of the Campsie Glen. The slopes are very accessible from neighbouring villages, and are overlooked by the Crow Road (the B822) which is well used by cyclists and visitors. The new woodland would also be directly overlooked, albeit at a distance, from the Crow Road car park, from where people walk the ridgelines of the Campsie Fells, and from the ridgeline of Lairs.

There is the nearby mature mixed Lennox woodland to the south, also managed by FES, and the relatively recent Campsie Glen mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland planting on nearby hill slopes to the west.

Elsewhere, however, the south facing slopes of the Campsie Fells is relatively un-wooded, with only small woodlands, shelterbelts and occasional policy woodlands within this largely farmed landscape.

3. Landscape designations

The proposed Balcorrach wood lies within the former Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills Regional Scenic Area. This designation is no longer supported by Scottish Planning Policy, and as a result, the area is proposed as a Local landscape Area, as outlined in the relevant supporting document for the Proposed Local Development Plan (2015)[1].

The area also lies within the Glazert Valley Local Landscape Area[2] and the wider Clydeside Greenbelt.

The purpose of both Local Landscape Areas[3] is to:

- Safeguard and enhance the character and quality of the landscape;
- Promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of the landscape; and
- Safeguard and promote important local settings for outdoor recreation and tourism

3.1 The Campsie Fells Local Landscape Area (LLA) – relevant objectives

The Campsie Fells LLA recognises the importance of the height, rugged character and dramatic skyline created by the distinctive escarpment and cliffs of the Campsie Fault. These are highly visible, and views from them are both striking and relatively readily accessible.

The special qualities of the Campsie Fells are clearly listed in section 4.4 of the Campsie Fells Statement of Importance, prepared as a supporting document to the Proposed Local development Plan in 2015. They are summarised under three headings:

- Distinctive landform of the Campsie Fells
- Striking Views
- Diversity of Landscape Experience

The detailed special qualities inform the assessment carried out in Table 1A – 1D in section 2.3 of this report below.

3.2. The Glazert Valley Special (Local) Landscape Area (LLA) – purpose of designation and relevant objectives

[1] *East Dunbartonshire Council*, Supporting Document for Proposed Local Development Plan 2015 – Evidence Report 4: Campsie Fells Statement of Importance.' (2015)
[2] XXXX, East Dunbartonshire Council, Special Landscape Area Designation, Planning Guidance Note (undated?)
[3] **summarised from the *Scottish Government,*** Scottish Planning Policy

The lower catchment of the Glazert Water and its feeder tributaries lie within the Glazert Valley LLA. Its smooth terrain and intimate pattern of fields and small woodlands forms a dramatic contrast to the relatively simple vegetation pattern, screes and steep, craggy escarpment to the immediate north at Lairs.

Other key characteristics include the policy woodlands, many associated with historic gardens and designed landscapes[4], and the historic pattern of settlements, which has been preserved by application of the green belt policy.

The Glazert Valley Local Landscape Area aims to:

- Protect and promote the special landscape attributes of the area

While specific attributes are not listed, the description of the existing landscape in the Planning Guidance Note[5] can be summarised as:

- The area provides an attractive setting for neighbouring towns, villages and small farm settlements which is underpinned by the designation of the greenbelt;
- The 'topography and visual character of the countryside displays considerable variation';
- The dramatic contrast between the open, steep, craggy skyline and the more gentle terrain of the lower slopes and their more managed and intimate scale of land use;
- The open land is predominantly pasture with occasional arable land on the valley floor, rising to 'rougher grasslands' of the valley sides;
- The numerous policy woodlands, associated with existing or historic landed estates.

The attributes of landscape character inform the assessment carried out in Table 2 –in section 2.3 of this report below.

3.3. Assessment of potential effects of new woodland on the special qualities and important characteristics of the designated Local Landscape Areas.

The following tables present an assessment of the potential effects of the proposed new woodland, drawing on the special qualities and key characteristics identified in supporting information related to these designations.

[4] *Peter McGowan Associates* 'Survey of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes in East Dunbartonshire' (2006)
[5] XXXX, East Dunbartonshire Council, Special Landscape Area Designation, Planning Guidance Note (undated?)

Assessment of potential impact of woodland planting on the relevant Special Qualities of the Campsie Fells[6]

Table 1A: Distinctive landform of the Campsie Fault

Special Quality	Potential effects of new woodland located at Balcorrach	Analysis and mitigating measures	Potential significance of change after proposed mitigating measures implemented
Distinctive landform of the Campsie Fault: The long undulating ridgeline of seemingly towering tops that define and confine Clachan of Campsie, Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie conveying a strong sense of physical barrier	The location of the woodland, on the lower slopes of the hill below the Crow Road, will have no impact on the sense of physical barrier created by the skyline and hilltops	Not applicable	Not applicable
Distinctive landform of the Campsie Fault: The skylines and outer faces of the hills…define the Glazert…Valley and contribute to the setting of East Dunbartonshire towns and villages…	The location of the woodland, on the lower slopes of the hill below the Crow Road, will have no impact on the setting created by the skyline, and there will be no change to the definition of the valley of the River Glazert created by the rising topography	Not applicable – the woodland will not affect the skyline, nor the containment or definition of the valley created by the landform shape	Not applicable
Distinctive landform of the Campsie Fault: Precipitous distinctive an dramatic south facing escarpment cliffs and scree at the Crow Road and Meikle Reive appear much higher and larger than they really are, because of lack of scale indicators.	The trees, as an element of known height, will be a new scale indicator in this landscape. This could have a *potential negative effect* on the perception of the height of the escarpment cliffs and scree slopes.	The location of the woodland, on the lowest slopes of the hillside, is well away from the steep scarp and scree slopes so will not readily act as a new scale indicator relative to the perceived height of the slopes. Broadleaves should be the main component of the woodland, as these trees will not be as tall and do not emphasise vertical height the way a conifer tree does. Establish shrubs and smaller broadleaves along the upper margin, to further mitigate against any loss of perception of high vertical scale at close quarters	During establishment – **no significance** At maturity – **low significance** at most
Conclusions - Distinctive landform of the Campsie Fault: • The location of the woodland, on the lower slopes, does not have any direct or indirect effect on the skyline and escarpment cliffs. • The woodland cannot directly impact on the underlying landform that defines the valley of the Glazert Water. • The woodland is not likely to impact on the perceived height and vertical scale of the cliffs and scree slopes, because the proposed woodland is			

[6] *East Dunbartonshire Council*, Supporting Document for Proposed Local Development Plan 2015 –**Evidence Report 4: Campsie Fells Statement of Importance.**' (2015)

located across the lowest hill slopes, well away from the upper steep slopes.

- Broadleaved woodland would have less impact on the perception of scale in this landscape, as conifer trees would be both taller and because of their shape would also introduce a more vertical element into this sensitive landscape.

Assessment of potential impact of woodland planting on the relevant Special Qualities of the Campsie Fells[7]

Table 1B: Striking Views

Special Quality	**Potential effects of new woodland located at Balcorrach**	**Analysis and Mitigating measures**	**Potential significance of change after proposed mitigating measures implemented**
Striking Views: Panoramic views from the hill edges and the summits…from Cort-ma Law and Lairs looking south and south west over the Glazert Valley LLA and south to Kelvin Valley and the wider Glasgow area	The location of the woodland, on the lower slopes of the hill below the Crow Road, will have *no effect* on visibility from the hill edges and summits, although it will form a component of the view to the south and south west from Cort-ma Law and Lairs.	Not applicable – but check impact on composition of views from key elevated viewpoints	Not applicable
Striking Views: Locally important and dramatic views descending into the Glazert Valley on the Crow Road	The location of the woodland, on the slopes below the B822 (Crow Road), has the potential to have *a negative effect* by obscuring views on the descent of the Crow Road. There is no woodland adjacent to the most dramatic elevated section of the road, nor where it could have obscured the 'revealed' view when travelling south at the Crow Road car park corner. If deer fencing is used, this could be *a potential negative* effect as it will create an additional visual barrier to views from the Crow Road	While the woodland will not be located where it can obscure the most important views from the Crow Road, it is located where the Crow Road descends along its final stretch into Lennoxtown. Views from this stretch of road are less dramatic, but still important – especially when looking south west. Planting should allow open views to the south west from key locations. Both planting and any fencing should be located below the break in slope, so that views will be focussed above the fence line. Occasional planting in tubes should be used to break up the fence line.	During establishment – **no significance** At maturity – **low significance** as key views from the Crow Road would be retained. The planting is not located where the most significant views from the road are experienced. Planting should be drawn back from the roadside edge, and located no higher up than the break in slope to retain views. Similarly, any deer fencing located near to the Crow Road should be held down below the break in slope.
Striking Views: Views towards the Local Landscape Area from a number of viewpoints, including the lowland Glazert Valleys, Clachan of Campsie, Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie,	Woodland would become a new component – to a greater or lesser extent, depending on distance and viewpoint – from these viewpoints. The most significant potential changes are likely to be from viewpoints close to the woodland, and especially from the Glazert Valley, the western edge of	Open views from Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie will need to be retained when designing the woodland edge, taking into account mature woodland. The woodland should be held back from the immediate road side, and rides and open spaces should be located to allow views to be	During establishment – **no significance** At maturity – **medium significance**, as the woodland will become a significant presence and change to the view, but it will have limited impact on the visibility of the Campsie Fells and Campsie Glen from key viewpoints, including the

[7] *East Dunbartonshire Council*, Supporting Document for Proposed Local Development Plan 2015 –E**vidence Report 4: Campsie Fells Statement of Importance.**' (2015)

	Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie.	retained from adjacent properties, the right of way and other access routes in the woodland. From the wider Glazert valley, views to the steep upper slopes of the Campsie Fells will be retained as the woodland occupies the lower slopes and does not obscure the views	public road.
Conclusions - Striking Views: • This special quality identifies the need to maintain visibility from key viewpoints and to avoid obscuring the most dramatic views. • The proposed woodland is located on the lower slopes of the hills, well away from elevated viewpoints and the most dramatic elements of views seen from the wider area and the Glazert valley. • With careful design, including the establishment and maintenance of open space generous enough to retain key views from key viewpoints, and holding back any deer fence from the public roads, then visibility from a number of key local viewpoints and adjacent properties should be retained.			

Assessment of potential impact of woodland planting on the relevant Special Qualities of the Campsie Fells[8]

Table 1C: Diversity of Landscape Experience

Special Quality	**Potential effects of new woodland located at Balcorrach**	**Analysis and Mitigating measures**	**Potential significance of change after proposed mitigating measures implemented**
Diversity of Landscape Experience: The contrast between the open and exposed rugged moorland on the range of hills between Cort-ma Law and Earl's Seat and the enclosure…of the incised, steep sided valleys of the Campsie Glen and Fin Glen…	The location of the woodland does not impact on either the open and exposed moorland of the hills or the enclosure of the Campsie Glen and Fin Glen.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Diversity of Landscape Experience: The contrast between the large scale, simple open hill land of the Campsie Fells and the adjacent landscape of the Glazert Valley LLA, which is characterised by smaller scale, diverse farmed, wooded and settled hill fringes	The proposed woodland is located within the Glazert Valley LLA, and will change the character of this LLA by increasing the amount of wooded land and reducing the amount of open farmed land on the lower hill slopes. The current farmland in this area is not very diverse – while there are lines of trees and hedges around the fields there is not an intimate mixture of woodland and field pattern, as there is elsewhere in the valley.	The proposed woodland should aim to maintain and if possible increase the contrast between the large scale, simple open hill and the smaller scale more diverse vegetation pattern of the Glazert Valley. To achieve this, the woodland should be diverse, with a preference for broadleaves to reflect seasonal change characteristic of the existing landscape.	During establishment – **low significance**, related to the change in character created by the uniform application of ground preparation across the proposed woodland area. At maturity – **medium significance**, as species choice should reflect the landform and the spatial composition of planting and species should reflect a small scale vegetation pattern.

[8] *East Dunbartonshire Council*, Supporting Document for Proposed Local Development Plan 2015 – **Evidence Report 4: Campsie Fells Statement of Importance.**' (2015)

	Nevertheless, there will be *a potential negative effect* created by the change of land use if it results in reduced diversity. The challenge is to create a woodland that increases diversity and maintains a small scale pattern, while also reflecting the location of the proposal, at the transition between upland hill and lowland farmed land.	The pattern of woodland should reflect the small scale of the drumlins and careful selection of species should emphasise the different small scale landforms. Woodland should include open space, wetland habitat and policy woodland elements, which would further add to diversity and reflect the policy woodland characteristic of the Glazert Valley landscape.	
Diversity of Landscape Experience: The hills have a sense of remoteness yet are accessible to nearby urban areas and it is easy to walk or drive into the foothills then climb	The proposed woodland will not impact on the sense of remoteness within the hills, nor will it limit access to the hills.	Not applicable	Not applicable
Conclusions - Diversity of Landscape Experience: • The proposed woodland will not impact on the contrast between the open and exposed rugged moorland and the more enclosed glen and wooded enclosure of Campsie Glen and Fin Glen. Nor will it impact upon the sense of remoteness or access opportunities that are available within the Campsie Fells or along the ridges. • The proposed woodland should be designed to emphasise the contrast in diversity between the visually simple vegetation pattern of the open hills and the more visually complex vegetation pattern in the Glazert Valley. This can be achieved by choosing a diverse range of species and arranging the spatial composition to reflect the small scale landform including maintain open land on the wetland. • The woodland should also offer access in a sheltered wooded setting close to the adjacent villages which will complement the access opportunities available on the more open hill.			

Table 2: Assessment of potential impact of woodland planting on the Landscape Attributes of the Glazert Valley[9]

Attribute of Key Characteristic	**Potential effects of new woodland located at Balcorrach**	**Analysis and Mitigating measures**	**Potential significance of change after proposed mitigating measures implemented**
The area provides an attractive setting for neighbouring towns, villages and small farm settlements which is underpinned by the designation of the greenbelt	The proposed woodland could have *a potential negative effect* by creating enclosure of the setting of the neighbouring towns and farms. Nevertheless woodland is likely to prevent expansion of built development, and reduce the risk of merging of the settlements in the greenbelt.	Well-designed woodland has the potential to enhance the setting of the settlements. To achieve this, the woodland should be diverse, offer shelter but retain views, and provide an interesting experience for future access. Any deer fencing proposed will have to be carefully located to follow landform, and its visibility mitigated by trees in tubes outside the fenced area.	During establishment – **low significance**, with the preparation of the ground and any erection of deer fencing being the principle changes. At maturity - **medium significance.** The character of the setting of the settlements will change, but it will be retained as accessible green space.
The ‘topography and visual character of the countryside displays considerable variation’	The proposed woodland could have *a potential negative effect* on the visual articulation of the topography if the same species is planted uniformly across the whole site.	The woodland has the potential to reflect topography through judicious choice of species and the pattern of open space. Species should be selected to reinforce the shape and differentiate between different topographical features, such as drumlins. Low-lying wetland areas should remain unplanted to add to diversity. Broadleaved trees should dominate to reflect seasonal change.	During establishment – **medium significance**, as the uniform ground preparation and loss of field pattern will combine to create a less diverse character At maturity – **low significance**, if species choice and pattern of open space reflects topography and this becomes apparent as trees mature.
The dramatic contrast between the open, steep, craggy skyline and the more gentle terrain of the lower slopes and their more managed and intimate scale of land use	The proposed woodland could have *a potential negative effect* on the contrast in land management and scale between the steep slopes of the upper hillsides and the lower more managed land on gentle terrain	Any negative effect can be mitigated by establishing a diverse woodland where species choice reflects the small scale landform and the rounded shapes of the gentle terrain. Species pattern should reflect the small scale terrain and the overall planting should include opens space to retain visual diversity	During establishment – low significance, as the intimate scale of the land use will be partially lost under uniform ground preparation. At maturity – **low significance,** woodland should be designed to reflect diversity and small scale of terrain, and provide a transition between open upland and low-lying field pattern

[9] XXXX, East Dunbartonshire Council, Special Landscape Area Designation, Planning Guidance Note (undated?)

The open land is predominantly pasture with occasional arable land on the valley floor, rising to 'rougher grasslands' of the valley sides	The proposed woodland removes open fields, and this is *a potential negative effect* on landscape character	The existing pattern of fields will be lost by the establishment of woodland, although field pattern in the lower valley will remain	During establishment – **low significance**, as fields will still be apparent. At maturity – **medium-high significance**, as the field pattern will disappear. Features, such as dykes and treelines will be retained.
The numerous policy woodlands, associated with existing or historic landed estates	The proposed woodland could have *a potential negative effect* on policy woodland character by not reinforcing this characteristic.	Existing mature trees should be retained and incorporated as feature trees within the design. Policy woodland should be included into the design to reflect local character and seasonal change.	During establishment – **no significance.** At maturity – **low significance**, as the new policy element will extend policy woodland cover within the Glazert valley
Conclusions – Potential impact on landscape a character of Glazert Valley LLA • Establishment of a diverse largely broadleaved woodland, which is designed to reflect the scale and diversity of the landform, and maximises the use of open space, introduces a significant new element into this landscape, which with care could enhance diversity overall. • Policy woodland should be incorporated into the woodland design to reinforce links to local character.			

4. Potential effect of proposed new woodland on additional landscape characteristics

No additional characteristics were identified which have not already been identified in the survey and assessment work carried out in preparation for designating the two Local landscape areas. The above Tables (1A, 1B. 1C and 2) between them cover the key characteristics of this landscape.

5. Visibility and the identification of viewpoints

The survey work carried out for this report included considering the proposals from a number of viewpoints. This allowed the following viewpoints to be identified as key viewpoints for any future assessment.

The visibility of the proposed woodland at Balcorrach is relatively limited from wider viewpoints, as it occupies low lying hill slopes and the valley of the Glazert is relatively undulating and wooded, limited distant views from other low-lying viewpoints.

The most important views are relatively local – from adjacent settlements and the Crow Road, as well as traffic using the A891. Important viewpoints also include the access route along the ridgeline to the Lairs.

It is also important to consider the views, and degree of potential enclosure by woodland of near neighbours, including houses within and immediately adjacent to the site.

Suggested viewpoints for assessing the potential visual impacts of the proposed new woodland at Balcorrach:

- The A891
- The junction between the A891 and the minor road to Clachan of Campsie
- Clachan of Campsie
- The B822 (The Crow Road) at the corner adjacent to the Crow Road car park
- The B822 (The Crow Road) in two locations between Balgrochan and the Crow Road car park
- Balgrochan
- The minor road to Muirhead/Newlands
- The access to Lairs

There may also be a need to prepare visualisations for near neighbours and specific houses within or immediately adjacent to the site.

6. Summary of key issues and conclusions

In terms of landscape and visual issues, and taking into account good design principles, the key changes to the landscape are likely to be:

- Establishment of broadleaved woodland which should be designed to take into account local, detailed topography, including drumlins, on the land between the settlements of Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie
- Establishment of policy-style woodland adjacent to Clachan of Campsie, to reflect this key characteristic of the Glazert valley
- Retention of key views from the Crow Road, although the woodland would be visible form the Crow Road. Care to be taken in terms of siting any deer fence, so that it is below the line of site as viewed from much of the Crow Road and visually 'fragmented' by planting in tubes.
- Lower growing broadleaves and shrubs should be used along these upper slopes, to limit any potential impacts on the perceived scale of the cliffs above the Crow Road by introducing 'scale reference features' that would make the cliffs appear to be less dramatic
- Diverse broadleaves, as well as some mixed policy woodland, and open space, should be established to maintain a level of visual diversity within the Glazert valley, but the pattern of planting should also reflect the local topography, so that it is still visually influential in the landscape
- The woodland should be designed so that open space can add to diversity within the woodland, and maximise opportunities for views from access routes and nearby houses

The most significant landscape and visual effect is likely to be the change in land-use from open fields to enclosed woodland.

While other potential impacts – such as the need to retain views from the Crow Road, the potential impacts on the perception of the dramatic scale of the cliffs above the Crow Road, the small scale of the drumlin topography characteristic of the Glazert valley, and the visual diversity in the landscape, can all be mitigated with good design, the actual change in land use itself is absolute.

However, there is scope to design a woodland that does take into account the special qualities of the LLAs, and the key characteristics of the landscape. The woodland can also be designed to provide a fine wooded setting for the settlements within the green belt, while also providing a resource that enhances the recreation potential and the biodiversity resource.

Appendix VIII: Hole Farm – Section 75 Recreational Woodland Management Plan

(see attached)

Scottish Lowlands Forest District

Hole Farm – Section 75

Recreational Woodland Management Plan

Contents

Maps:

Version History

Version	Date	Comments
1.0	13/06/2016	Initial draft
1.1	08/07/2016	Update to table 3 and map 3
1.2	13/09/2016	Update to 3.3.1

Summary of Proposals

This management plan sets out a series of proposals to be undertaken or explored by Scottish Lowlands Forest District in order to deliver recreational woodland in accordance with the Section 75 agreement obligation inherited through the purchase of the land surrounding Hole Farm.

This plan will create new broadleaved woodland in keeping with the surrounding landscape which will enhance the biodiversity potential of the site whilst retaining features such as hedgerows, dykes and important views particularly towards Campsie Glen and the Fells. This plan will also form part of a broader woodland creation plan for the wider site for which a Land Management Plan is in the process of being developed. This plan for the Section 75 area puts forward a vision for the site as an amenity asset for the surrounding communities and aims to enhance existing connectivity between communities and promote increased educational and recreational use of the site.

1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Setting and context

The Section 75 area is currently agricultural land used for grazing situated between the town of Lennoxtown and Capieston House to the west in the Local Authority of East Dunbartonshire (OS Grid Ref: NS 622 785). Lying between 68m and 87m above sea level the site covers an area of approximately 16 Hectares and lies on the south facing foothills of the Campsie Fells below the B822 Crow Road; an area identified within the Central Scotland Forestry Strategy as desirable for woodland expansion particularly to develop access links within enhanced landscape corridors (**see Map 1 – S75 Location**). The site also falls within the wider Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) ownership of the recently acquired Hole Farm which is proposed for woodland creation in 2018-19 as Balcorrach Wood (**see Map 2 – S75 within Balcorrach Wood & wider Campsie Glen LMP Area**).

Table 1 Current land usage

Land use	Area (ha)	%age
Agriculture	15.9	100
Total	**15.9**	**100**

1.2 History of the site

The site's main land use over the last several hundred years has been as agricultural land for grazing incorporating some hedgerow planting and drystane dykes to delineate field boundaries and provide the stock contained within some cover from the elements. There has not been a history of woodland. As part of the agreement made with the previous owner of the site, in order to allow a proposed housing development in the area a Section 75 was imposed obliging the developer to create recreational woodland for the benefit of the local community in the area concerning this plan. This obligation was inherited by FES in purchasing the site in March 2015.

2.0 Analysis of previous plan

There was no previous plan.

3.0 Background information

3.1 Physical site factors

3.1.1 Geology Soils and landform

According to British Geological Society data the underlying geology of the site consists of Lawmuir Formation, layers of mudstone, siltstone, sandstone with seatearths, coals and marine limestones. Overlying the bedrock, the superficial geology has been influenced by glaciation i.e. Devensian Till. This underlying parent material has resulted in the soils on site ranging from typical brown earths (FC Category 1) on the raised drier areas such as the drumlins to typical and brown surface water gleys (FC Categories 7 & 7b) in the wetter hollows.

Soil Moisture Regime provides an indication of the moisture and oxygen availability within the soil, both of which are essential for root growth. The site ranges from **slightly dry** to **moist** implying reasonable aeration and water availability permitting good rooting depth.

Soil Nutrient Regime is a measure of both the availability of soil nutrients for plant growth, and the acidity of the soil (which impacts on the solubility and hence availability for uptake of most nutrients). The site has a **medium level of nutrient availability** (within the very poor to very rich range) allowing a fairly wide range of species options for the site.

Based on the James Hutton Institute Land Capability for Forestry classification the majority of the site is classed as '*F3, Land with good flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops*'.

3.1.2 Climate

The site falls within the **Warm, Moist** climatic zone with Accumulated Temperature (day-degrees above 5 °C, a measure of growing season length) 1381 (1200 representing the dividing point between Cool & Warm) and Moisture Deficit 132 (90 representing the dividing point between Wet & Moist).

3.1.3 Exposure (DAMS)

Detailed Aspect Method Scoring (DAMS) is a measure of windiness of a site using the angle to the horizon in the eight compass points, weighted towards the prevailing wind direction. Scores range from 0-24: The higher the score the greater the exposure, with scores below 13 regarded as sheltered and above 22 as too high for commercial forestry. **DAMS on the site scores a**

sheltered 12 (13-15 = moderately exposed, 16-17 = highly exposed), with scores generally increasing with elevation.

3.1.4 Hydrology

The site is in the Glazert Water catchment, which is one of Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)'s pilot catchments for river restoration and natural flood management. It is also part of the EcoCo Life+ project for ecological coherence across central Scotland. SEPA's River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) unit is working closely with stakeholders in the Glazert Water catchment on these projects. SEPA recognise the planting of woodland as one of the measures which can help with natural flood management in the catchment.

There is one unnamed watercourse (tributaries of the Glazert Water) running along the northern edge of the Section 75 area. Looking at historic map data this is a burn which, more than likely, was straightened and realigned well over a century ago to improve drainage of the site. The burn starts on the upper slopes as several smaller burns which have been realigned into one which passes underground into Lennoxtown feeding Whitefield Pond which in turn has an outlet which drains into the Glazert. The pond holds brown trout and is usually stocked annually. According to SEPA the burn is **not** a baseline water-body requiring improvement under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

3.2 The existing site

3.2.1 Existing tree/shrub cover

At present a only handful of mature trees are dotted around the S75 area predominantly along the south-eastern edge. A veteran hawthorn hedgerow avenue approximately 300 metres in length borders the S75 area to the north-west. This feature would have functioned as an avenue to the former Capieston House and as a field boundary for stock enclosure. The hedgerow is in a state of disrepair in places and has also developed clear stem in places.

3.2.2 Access

There are presently 3 access points to the Section 75 area and each of these form part of the Public Right of Way. These access points are the farm track leading in from Clachan of Campsie to the west, the access road to Hole Farm off of Glen Road in the south and the footpath which enters from the east off of the Crow Road.

3.2.3 LISS potential

The site is suitable to be managed using low impact silvicultural systems as an alternative to clearfell as it is a stable site with the potential for high amenity and recreational usage.

3.2.4 Potential produce

Future thinnings from within broadleaves could provide for the firewood market and potentially for more niche local hardwood saw-millers. Coppicing could potentially serve as an opportunity in future to provide volunteer and/or educational experience both from its harvesting and from its practical use in fencing and weaving etc.

3.2.5 Pathogens

In recent years there have been well documented outbreaks of *Chalara fraxinea* affecting ash. As such there is a presumption against planting ash.

3.3 Landscape and land use

3.3.1 Landscape character and value

The S75 site lies within a very visually diverse, irregular landscape due to the nature of its urban fringe setting characterised by a complex matrix of roads, residential housing, agricultural enclosures and woodlands set against the fairly rugged backdrop of the Campsie Fells. The site is generally perceived on the small scale from its immediate urban surrounds to the west and south-east due to the topography of the site. From the Crow Road to the north however the site is also perceived on the medium scale being able to look down on the site and the surrounding area. From more obscure vantage points from higher elevation within and next to Lennox Forest to the south the site can be perceived on the large scale with its context within the wider landscape more apparent however as mentioned these are not views enjoyed by a great number of people.

According to Scottish Natural Heritage's Landscape Character Assessment of Glasgow and Clyde Valley, the Section 75 site falls within the area they've categorised as Broad Valley Lowland. Relevant extracts from the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment are shown below in Figure 1.

Figure 1 - Landscape Character Extract

BROAD VALLEY LOWLAND *- KEY LANDSCAPE ISSUES*

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- *development pressures associated with settlements within, or bordering the valleys*
- *the importance of conserving historic sites and their context, and encouraging awareness and appreciation of them*
- *the need to maintain field boundaries (hedges, walls, field boundary trees), particularly on the higher slopes where there has been decline or loss*
- *the importance of encouraging water management which is sensitive to the character of these naturally low-lying, and wet valley landscapes*

MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- *wide flat bottomed valley*
- *presence of waterbodies, wetlands and rivers*
- *transport routes and settlements along the valley sides*
- *transition from arable to rough grazing from the valley floor to the high valley sides*
- *historic sites and communication routes along the valley sides*
- *presence of farm and policy woodland*

Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve and enhance the diversity of this valley landscape and its component parts. In particular, this should aim to protect the transitions between valley floor and surrounding hills and prevent developments which would obscure the inherent changes in character.

Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change

This landscape type is sensitive to the loss and decline of its mature farm and policy woodlands which help to integrate valley floor and side slopes and which provide the backcloth for urban development. The characteristic pattern is that of small to medium scale woodland belts which extend up the slopes often following drainage channels, hugging gullies and framing terraces. The woodlands are predominantly broadleaved, although small conifer plantations occupy sites on the valley slopes. The landscape would be sensitive, therefore, to large scale plantations which 'infilled' field blocks, obscured valley slope field patterns and which severed the visual relationship between the valley floor and its upper slopes. Wetland margins in the valley floor support scrub woodlands which would be sensitive to drainage works and clearance for development or cultivation. The landscape would also be sensitive to the loss of other semi-natural woodlands, for example along gullies and tributary burns

Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- *encourage the conservation and active management of existing farm and policy woodlands to ensure their longevity; mixed species including exotics should be used in restocking where these were historically present ; opportunities to extend these woodlands as belts around new buildings in the countryside or as connections between plantations should also be supported where this could achieve visual integration;*
- *encourage the restructuring of isolated conifer plantations on the valley slopes and their extensions to connect with woodlands at lower levels; the use of transitional mixed-species belts may help to achieve visual integration. In all cases, these extensions should be of small to medium scale and should preserve the dominance of open ground allowing views to and from the valley floor*
- *encourage the conservation of agricultural tree lines and small groups around farmsteads through replacement planting. Beech, sycamore, oak, ash and Scots pine are most characteristic of this landscape type*
- *encourage the conservation and appropriate management of valley floor broadleaf woodlands associated with wetlands, river corridors and loch shores in recognition of their role in providing important wildlife habitats and essential features of waterside areas. They should be conserved and protected from clearance for development or from drainage alterations*
- *encourage woodland development and extension along minor riparian corridors, along tributary burns and up watercourse gullies in the valley sides*
- *support the use of new woodland planting to improve the integration of recent or planned developments on the urban fringe. Where developments are, or may be, prominent on valley slopes, woodland could provide a backcloth or partial screen. In the valley floor, additional broadleaf woodland could reduce visual intrusion. This would be most effective where it could be connected with existing valley floor woodlands.*

Special Landscape Area

The site lies within the former Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills Regional Scenic Area. This designation is no longer supported by Scottish Planning Policy, and as a result, the area is proposed by East Dunbartonshire Council as a Local landscape Area, as outlined in the Proposed Local Development Plan 2015. The site also lies within the Glazert Valley Local Landscape Area and the wider Clydeside Greenbelt.

The purpose of both Local Landscape Areas is to:

- Safeguard and enhance the character and quality of the landscape;
- Promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of the landscape
- Safeguard and promote important local settings for outdoor recreation and tourism

3.3.2 Visibility

The site is visible at the small scale from the south at points along Glen Road and from the back of the properties that line the road. The site is also visible from various other properties such as Hole Farm and Capieston House and various residents of Kincaid Drive, Cumroch Road to the east which also have small scale views of the site although these are narrower than those from Glen Road. There are medium scale views of the site and its surrounds looking south from the Crow Road which are more fleeting being a busy B-Road. Broader larger scale northerly views of the site are fleeting from the South Brae Road which descends into Lennoxtown from Lennox Forest to the south as well as from a limited few vistas from within and around Lennox Forest itself.

3.3.3 Neighbouring land use

The predominant neighbouring land use is of similar broad valley lowland agricultural farmland. At present the wider surrounding FES ownership to the west and north remains as agricultural grazing. In addition to farmland to the immediate south and east there is an urban residential land use with a golf course also beyond to the east. Further to the north, rugged open hill stretches over the Campsie Fell ridge.

3.4 Biodiversity

3.4.1 Priority Habitat Types

PHT's are protected under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and FCS policy is to protect, enhance and expand these habitats where suitable. The

Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan didn't identify the site as being particularly significant for any of the habitats or species identified within. A field based walkover survey by the Forest District Environment Forester did however identify Lowland fen priority habitat located on the northern edge of the S75 area south of the burn.

3.4.2 Important Species

The Forest District Environment Forester walkover field survey did not identify any UKBAP or LBAP species identified for specific conservation concern.

3.5 Heritage

Following FES Historic Environment Planning Guidance, this Management Plan describes and considers the conservation and management of the historic environment. The plan includes details of all the most significant undesignated features which include the ruin of the former Capieston House and its outbuildings, a drystane dyke and historic track ways. These historic environment features have been surveyed, recorded and mapped to ensure and demonstrate Forestry Commission Scotland compliance with the UK Forestry Standard. This plan describes the actions appropriate to the protection of significant known historic environment features.

The features listed above were established by way of a desk-based and a basic walkover archaeological survey by the Forest District Environment Forester and have been incorporated into the Forester GIS Heritage Module Geodatabase. This ensures that these historic environment features have been mapped and recorded prior to forestry establishment and management operations - and will ensure the continued comprehensive protection of the known archaeological resource. No further archaeological surveys are necessary (as per the UKFS Forests and historic environment guidance (2011) - Guidance note for FD Environment Leads and Planners) as the site has been previously improved with the same land use for well over a century.

3.6 Community & Recreation

3.6.1 Community

The site is situated close to three communities, Lennoxtown, Clachan of Campsie and Haughhead with two local primary schools; St Machan's and Lennoxtown close by but no nurseries or secondary schools in the near vicinity. There are several active local community groups and a community council for the area. Most of the site falls within 1 kilometre of Lennoxtown which, with a population of greater than 2000 people, qualifies Balcorrach

Wood for the Woodlands In And Around Towns (WIAT) programme. This programme aims to improve the quality of life in towns and cities and as such the woodland will be designed and managed to develop opportunities for improved social, economic and environmental benefits.

3.6.2 Recreation

The site currently is used, almost exclusively, by walkers and dog walkers travelling the public right of way. Due to the grazing stock, the public right of way has become poached, muddy and wet in places and with the hedgerows suffering from previous neglect it has also become obstructed in parts.

4.0 Analysis and Concept

Using survey work and research, a broad range of factors were acknowledged and considered to recognise the site's key features which, informed by the objective to create a recreational woodland, were used to identify the opportunities and constraints which exist within the management plan area and from there develop an initial concept (see **Table 2 Analysis and Initial Concept Development** below). This initial concept forms part of a wider concept for Balcorrach Wood. Public consultations on the future of the wider Balcorrach Wood site were held in March 2016.

Table 2 Analysis and Initial Concept Development

Strategic Priority	Survey	Opportunities	Constraints	Concept
Accessible				
	The existing Right of Way linking Lennoxtown to Clachan of Campsie is in places difficult to cross due to an accumulation of factors such as poor drainage, heavily poached ground due to cattle, unmanaged overgrown hawthorn hedgerows.	There is an opportunity to improve the right of way linking Lennoxtown to Clachan of Campsie and to offer alternative routes through the site providing an improved visitor experience through the envisaged woodland on more suitable terrain.	Potential opposition from those who might prefer to retain the exiting route. Potential opposition from the local area access officer.	The existing Right of Way will be retained with additional alternative routes included in the wider woodland design. The network of rides will provide users of the ROW between Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie alternative routes and circular paths within the site to enjoy.
Cared for				
	There is an internal matrix of linear field boundaries made up of drystane dykes, drainage ditches, stock-fencing and hawthorn hedgerows.	Use the local topography to guide the position and shape of planted areas so they fit well within the wider landscape whilst retaining existing habitat and heritage features within them.	In order to balance appropriate planting areas with recreational and operational access, gaps may need to be created in existing hedgerows and/or dykes.	Planting areas will be designed to fit well within the wider landscape and retain features of habitat and heritage interest.
	There are almost ubiquitous good views of the southern slopes of the Campsie Hills across the site.	Whilst the ubiquitous views throughout the site will no longer be had, enjoyment of the views should be enhanced by judicious use of framing of views and enabling glimpsed views both from within the site and from the surrounding area.	Potential opposition from those who would prefer to retain the site in its current format with no loss of views.	Planted areas will be designed so as to minimise the impact on views of the Campsie Fells from in and around the site.

	Surrounding properties look on to the site and the Camspies which provide a backdrop.	Judicious use of design can be used to help retain and/or frame various views currently enjoyed by the properties surrounding the site.	Retaining a number of views reduces the net plantable area where trees may otherwise have trees on them.	Planted areas will be designed so as to minimise the impact on views to properties in and around the site.
Healthy				
	The soils on the lower ground are predominantly fertile brown earths moving toward brown and typical surface water gleys on the upper slopes and wet hollows. The site is fairly sheltered.	The sheltered nature of the site coupled with the relatively fertile soils provide an opportunity to plant a wide range of species which can be used to create a visually, and texturally diverse woodland capable of producing good quality hardwood timber.	To establish broadleaves protection from browsing will be necessary either using fencing or protective tubes.	Site conditions are suitable to allow a broadleaves to be planted within the site. Various species are site suited so the most appropriate species will be used to develop a crop which will be productive, healthy and adapted to predicted climate change. The crop will likely require appropriate protection from browsing damage.
Treasured				
	The south east of the site has an obligation to provide a Recreational Woodland inherited within the acquisition of the site as part of the previous plans to develop it for housing.	As this area directly backs on to Lennoxtown there is opportunity to engage with the local community to create an entrance area which reflects their ideas and interests and encourages use of the site and exploration of the wider woodland network.	Agreeing the nature and design of a community area may take some time and the eventual implementation of a community area may be dependent on available funds etc.	Where the site backs on to Lennoxtown, the forest district will engage with the local community with a view to incorporate their ideas and interests into the development of this transitional welcome zone between the town and the woodland.

5.0 Management Plan Proposals

The proposals detailed below describe the rational and methodologies to be employed in order to achieve the objective of creating a recreational woodland as per the obligation of the Section 75 agreement. Some proposals for the site will be dependent on various factors such as the availability of suitable funding, consultation with neighbours/community etc.

The proposals for this site have been produced based on sound silvicultural and environmental principles and follow the requirements, guidelines and recommendations set out within the UK Forestry Standard, the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme, FC Bulletin 124 Ecological Site Classification for Forestry and FC Bulletin 62 Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodland, FC Bulletin 115 Alternative Silvicultural Systems and the current FC edition of Forest and Water Guidelines.

5.1 Woodland Creation

To establish a recreational woodland as per the Section 75 agreement it is proposed that this objective is delivered over 2 phases.

5.1.1 Phased planting

Phase 1 - 2016/17

In order to initially satisfy the Section 75 obligation it is the intention of the forest district to plant 0.9 hectares of **low growing shrubs**, 1.1 Ha of **native wet woodland** and 0.4 Ha of **lowland mixed deciduous woodland** in the latter part of 2016. Table 3 lists the indicative species, areas, densities and spacing below.

Phase 2 - 2018/19

To complete the Section 75 planting it is our intention to plant a further 4.3 hectares of **lowland mixed deciduous woodland** and 1.0 hectare of **native wet woodland** and as part of delivery of the proposed Balcorrach woodland creation scheme across the wider site. The outline timeframe for this planting is for 2018/19. Table 3 lists the indicative species, areas, densities and spacing below.

Table 3 Indicative species areas, densities and spacing

	Land Use	Map ref.	Species	Stems/Ha	Spacing (m)	Area (Ha)
Phase 1 - 2016/17	Low growing shrub	1a	Guelder rose *(Viburnum opulus)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.2
		1b	Elder/Wych elm *(Sambucus nigra / Ulmus glabra)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	1.1
		1c	Elder *(Sambucus nigra)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.0
		1d	Hazel *(Corylus avellana)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.9
		1e	Blackthorn / Hawthorn *(Prunus spinosa / Crataegus monogyna)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.1
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	2	Rowan / Wild cherry *(Sorbus aucuparia / Prunus avium)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.3
	Native wet woodland	3a	Goat willow *(Salix caprea)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.1
		3b	Downy birch / Goat willow *(Betula pubescens / Salix caprea)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.7
Phase 2 - 2018/19	Low growing shrub	4	Hazel *(Corylus avellana)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.4
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	5a	Silver birch	3000	2.5 x 2.5	3.4
		5b	Wild cherry *(Prunus avium)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.0
		5c	Rowan *(Sorbus aucuparia)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.1
	Native wet woodland	6a	Downy birch / Rowan *(Betula pubescens / Salix caprea)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.4
		6b	Goat willow *(Salix caprea)*	1100	3.0 x 3.0	0.0
	Other	7	Community Area	-	-	2.9
			Open ground	-	-	5.3
			Total	-	-	15.9

Nursery stock will be planted and the seedlings will be between approximately 10 and 60 cm in height. Failures within the lowland mixed deciduous areas will be beaten up to achieve the desired stocking densities with a more flexible approach toward failures amongst the native wet woodland and low growing shrub areas with only substantial failures requiring replacement (**see Map 3 – S75 Planting**).

5.1.2 Ground preparation

Deep forestry ploughing will not be permitted as a method of ground preparation to avoid sediment run-off and erosion. Shallow agricultural ploughing should not be used on slopes over 9%. Site sensitive ground preparation methods (e.g. hand-screefing, continuous mounding) on slopes over 9%, will be adopted.

With regards drainage, if it is necessary, appropriate methods will be employed in accordance the current edition of the Forests and Water Guidelines but no drainage methods will be employed in areas of native wet woodland as these species depend on moist or waterlogged soils.

5.1.3 Protection from browsing

The site is currently under grazing and stock fenced and therefore when the stock is taken off there will be a vacuum which is expected to be filled by the surrounding roe deer population. In order therefore to safeguard the establishing trees it is expected that the crop will need to be protected. During phase 1 of the planting it is trusted that with some upgrading of the existing stock fence and judicious use of tree guards coupled with the continuation of the surrounding grazing lease that this may suffice to protect the trees. For phase 2 however when the grazing lease is ended and the remaining stock taken off the wider site the S75 area will be more vulnerable to deer influx. Because of this likely influx the S75 area will require enhanced protection and will be incorporated into the wider Balcorrach Wood method of protection. This is likely to mean fencing to exclude deer and/or protection from tree guards. For both phases with the ground vegetation no longer grazed, cover for voles will be increased and therefore vole guards may be required to further protect the seedlings. Whilst establishing the site access to the public right of way will be retained.

5.2 Woodland Management

As the site will function principally to provide general recreation it is the intention to manage the section 75 area primarily for this objective. That being said managing the woodland with a view to promoting and developing good stand form, health and stability as well as its biodiversity value need not

conflict with the overriding aspiration for the site in providing community recreational benefit.

5.2.1 Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

Short-Medium term silvicultural aims

To establish a new mixed-broadleaved recreational woodland and to manage it to produce healthy, vigorous trees eventually managing the woodland under continuous cover. It is our intention to manage the majority of the lowland mixed-deciduous planted area to promote the suitable conditions, over many years, to be managed in perpetuity using alternative to clearfell methods (ATC). In order to achieve the ideal stand conditions it is our intention to thin the stand in several interventions over many decades. The precise thinning regime cannot be determined as this time but will be detailed in future land management plans for Balcorrach Wood. It would not be envisaged for thinnings to be carried out for at least 20 years after planting. All thinning decisions will be guided by Operational Guidance Booklet 9 - Managing Thinning, and the current SLFD Thinning Plan.

Long term silvicultural aims

To encourage and promote a woodland diverse in species, structure, character, texture and biodiversity it is the intention to manage the woodland using ATC methods such as low impact silvicultural systems (LISS). The precise system(s) best suited to managing the site will be defined in future land management plans for Balcorrach Wood but are likely to be either a seed tree or group system. Such systems avoid large clearfelling of areas and instead over time remove a limited proportion of the stand to facilitate the ideal condition to promote and encourage natural regeneration. As natural regeneration begins to establish and develop areas will be promoted to replace the former dominant trees. Over time eventually the woodland will be regenerated. This form of management encourages healthy woodland by creating a range of growth phases within the wood and enhancing biodiversity whilst retaining woodland cover in perpetuity.

5.2.2 Native Wet Woodland

Areas of native wet woodland once established will have minimal management intervention other than for any tree safety issues that may arise. Natural processes should be allowed to shape these stands enhancing biodiversity.

5.2.3 Low growing shrubs

Areas of low growing shrubs will be planted to achieve multiple purposes. Judicious positioning of low growing species will allow views from the surrounding residential properties to be retained; planting of species which produce fruit, berries, nuts and flowers will provide a potential benefit to the local community. Providing cover for various forms of wildlife should enhance biodiversity whilst reducing the area which, if left open, has the potential to go rank once it is no longer grazed. Planting areas should allow suitable gaps between groups in order to facilitate any future management that may be required. Once established the woody shrub species will be observed annually during the growing season and should any particular shrubs become overgrown or too tall any necessary management regime will be created and implemented. The existing veteran hawthorn hedgerow avenue that flanks the public right of way on the western edge of the section 75 area will have a defined trimming regime every 2 or 3 years helping to shape the hedge, open up the right of way access and create the best conditions for the hedge to provide important habitat for wildlife. Cutting should be between January – February before the bird breeding season and allowing wildlife to take advantage of the autumnal berries. Due to its veteran nature appropriate care will be taken in managing this feature. Coppicing of hazel and willow may also be used both to enhance biodiversity and to encourage education and community involvement.

5.2.4 Open Land

As detailed in table 3 above approximately 5.8 hectares of the Section 75 area will be open ground. This will consist of designed gaps between planting to retain important views and landscape character such as drumlins. Open space also accounts for the public right of way and desire line path routes within the site. The public right of way and suitable desire lines/rides will be mown to encourage and promote recreational use. The small area of lowland fen identified will not be planted save for some limited native species sparsely dotted around its edge but will be left as open habitat; however it will not formally be managed as such but left to develop naturally and overtime may develop interesting woodland edge habitat. The area managed as open may increase as and when the function of the community area is decided upon.

5.2.5 Hydrology

Operations and planting on the site will adhere to the guidance in the latest version of the Forest and Water Guidelines.

5.3 Biodiversity

5.3.1 Priority Habitat Types

The lowland fen UKBAP priority habitat will not be formally managed as it is an isolated patch with no wider linkage context but rather it shall not be planted save for some limited native species sparsely dotted around its edge and be allowed to develop naturally after over a century of grazing.

5.3.2 Important Species

No important species have been identified during the surveying for this plan, however should any species be discovered in future then the appropriate conservation will be applied as per the relevant FCS Policy and Guidance.

5.3.3 Wildlife Management

As there is no woodland to protect as yet and the site is currently grazed there has been no need to manage the site for herbivore damage. As suggested previously, to protect the establishing crop, stock/deer fencing and/or tree guarding are most likely to be the methodologies employed. Once the crop has established and any fencing/tree guards are removed, future plans will detail any deer management prescription for the site. Further details on our deer management can be found within the Scottish Lowlands Forest District Deer Management Strategy (in conjunction with the Deer Overview Map).

5.4 Heritage

In general, all significant archaeological sites will be protected and managed following Forests and historic environment guidelines (2011), the FCS policy document Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment (2008) and the supporting FES Historic Environment Planning Guidelines. Proposed new paths, entrances and fence lines will be surveyed by Forest District staff prior to any work being undertaken in order to ensure that upstanding historic environment features can be marked and avoided. At planting, work prescriptions remove relevant historic environment features from ground disturbing operations and planting. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites are considered on a case-by-case basis (such as the views to and from a significant designated site).

5.5 Community & Recreation

FES district staff will liaise with the local community to promote and encourage use of the wood and Community Rangers will seek opportunities to develop

new and forge existing links with schools, community and user groups to increase awareness and enjoyment of the site and wider woodland.

5.5.1 Community

In addition to the aesthetic enhancement of the site through planting, the site will provide opportunity for educational and health benefit. It is hoped that school groups might use the site as outdoor learning space and to engage with and learn about nature. The planting of species which produce edible fruits, berries or nuts which can be picked by the visitors it is hoped will provide further community benefit. Coppicing of species e.g. willow, hazel may also provide educational benefit to demonstrate weaving or fencing. A proposed 'Community Area' has been identified within the site beside Lennoxtown and our Communities team will liaise with the community to explore what they would like to see provided for in this area.

5.5.2 Recreation

As well as the existing right of way, the planting design will incorporate rides (spaces between planted areas) which will provide opportunity for visitors to take alternative routes through the site allowing for extended walks and circular routes. Initially suitable rides will be subject to a mowing regime of several cuts each growing season providing improved walking conditions. It is also envisaged that in future various mown paths may warrant being surfaced possibly along with the provision of woodland furniture e.g. benches, picnic tables. This will be dependent on use of the site, funding and liaison with the community. It is intended that the indicative ride network provide links to the wider Balcorrach Wood ride network facilitating enhanced connectivity between Lennoxtown and Clachan of Campsie but also to provide future opportunity to link more widely e.g. the Stathkelvin Railway Path.

5.6 Access

5.6.1 Visitor

Visitor access will continue to be maintained at the three existing access points to the public right of way. It is in envisaged that a further future entrance to the wood will be created off Kincaid Drive to facilitate both improved access and enhance the initial experience the visitor has of the site. There are no plans to provide any visitor parking for the site. As mentioned previously access will be provided initially via existing tracks or mown woodland rides but it is hoped that in future these may be upgraded to more formal paths.

5.6.2 Management

At present we have a right of access via the road leading from Glen Rd to Capieston House and Hole Farm which should be suitable during the initial

period of establishment. During this time there will be limited traffic accessing the site for the purposes of preparing the ground, securing the site (e.g. fencing) and planting trees. It would not be expected for machinery larger than a tractor to use this road and a few cars for a few days/weeks after which the requirement to use this access will be minimal. Future management access to the site will be described in the LMP for the wider proposed Balcorrach Wood.

5.7 Critical Success Factors

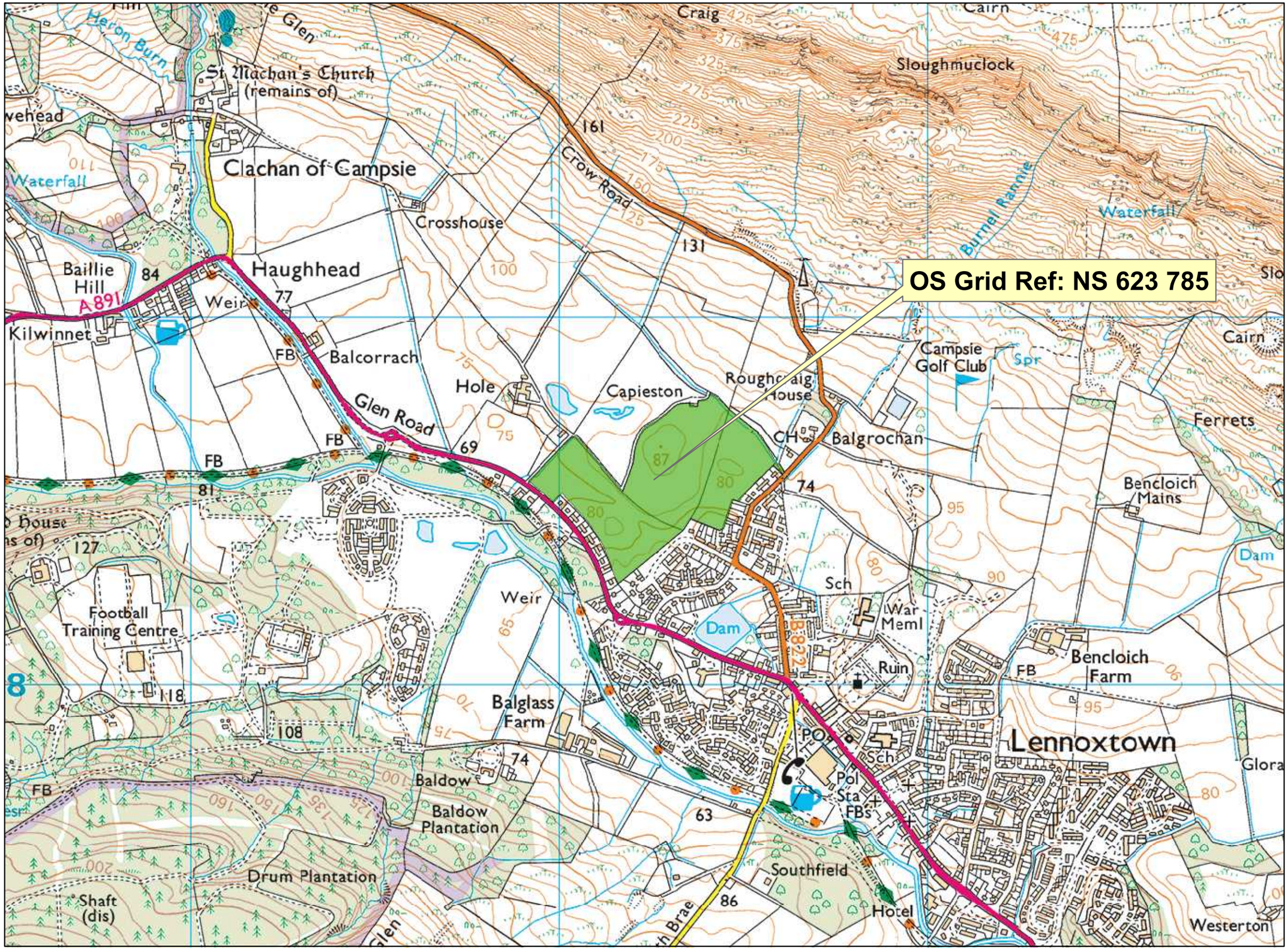
The success of this plan will be based on appraising the main objectives

- Has a recreational woodland being established?
- Does the woodland enhance the use and enjoyment of the site?

Further to these main objectives it is also important that the Section 75 recreational woodland links with the wider proposed Balcorrach Wood, in terms of recreational benefit, connectivity and landscape character.

To appraise the success of the plan the district will record the establishment of the site within our sub-compartment database and continue to monitor its development as per management to be detailed in future land management plans for Balcorrach Wood. The district will likely also monitor visitor numbers and gauge visitor opinion using methods such as people counters and surveys again to be detailed further in future land management plans for Balcorrach Wood.

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba



Scottish Lowlands FD

HOLE FARM SECTION 75

LOCATION

Scale: 10,000 @ A3

0 60 120 240 360 480 Meters

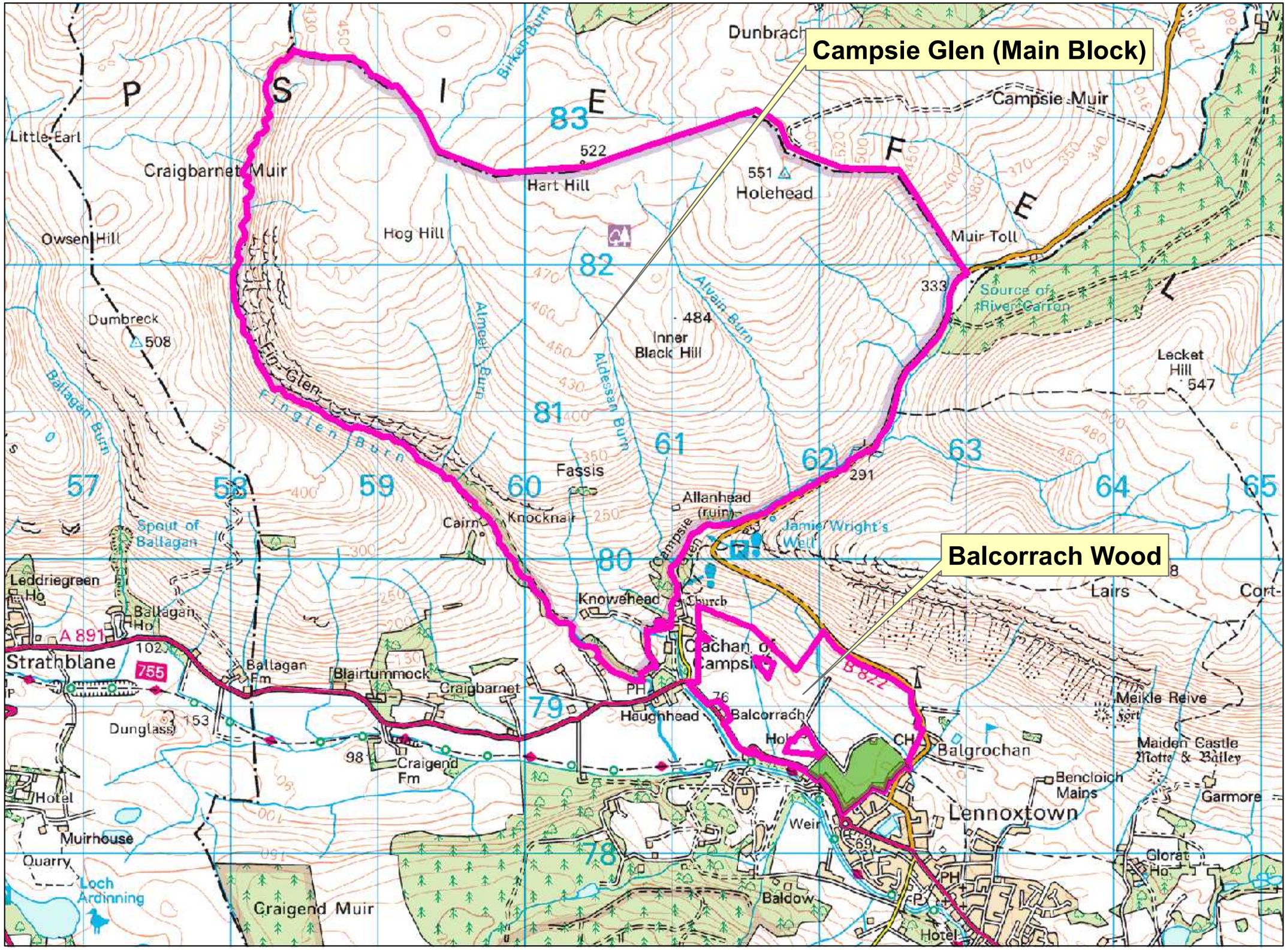
10 Jun 2016

N
W E
S

Legend

Section 75 Area

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba



Scottish Lowlands FD

HOLE FARM SECTION 75

Within Balcorrach Wood
&
Wider Campsie Glen LMP Area

Scale: 25,000 @ A3

0 150 300 600 900 1,200 Meters

10 Jun 2016

N
W E
S

Legend

- FES Management Area
- Section 75 Area

Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Additional suitable planting areas within the S75 area will be established as part of the wider woodland creation plan forecast for 2018/19

Prune back the hedgerow avenue to improve visitor access and to allow the soil to dry out and the grass to recover improving access and the visitor experience.

Retain existing right of way route

Retain lowland fen priority habitat

Install/repair the stock fence to enclose the section 75 area securing it from surrounding stock without the initial need for a deer fence.

Native wet woodland species to be planted in and around the wet rush pasture areas enhancing biodiversity.

In addition to the existing public right of way, establish new desire lines facilitating an enhanced experience for the visitor where possible using existing routes and slaps in dykes etc.

Shrub species such as Elder, Blackthorn & Hazel will provide edible fruits, flowers and nuts.

Create new entrance to the site providing improved access to the local community.

Plant low growing shrub species next to properties to prevent degredation of vegetation whilst retaining views and a sense of the topography character.

Within the welcome zone, transitioning between urban and woodland, explore ideas with community to provide a space which best fits their needs and desires.

Capieston House

CUMROCH ROAD

KINCAID DRIVE

B822

71m

74m

Path

Weir

Scottish Lowlands FD

BALCORRACH WOOD

SECTION 75 AREA
INDICATIVE PLANTING DESIGN

Scale: 2,250 @ A3

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Meters

26 Aug 2016

N
W E
S

Legend

- Management Area
- Section 75 Area
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Blackthorn/Hawthorn
- Downy birch/Goat willow
- Downy birch/Rowan
- Elder
- Elder/Wych elm
- Goat willow
- Guelder rose
- Hazel
- Silver birch
- Rowan
- Rowan/Wild cherry
- Wild cherry
- Community Area
- Public Right of Way
- Potential paths

Appendix IX: Related Documents

In addition to those already referenced within the main text the following key policy or guidance documents which have influenced this plan are listed here:

- UK Forestry Standard (3rd Edition)
- UK Woodland Assurance Standard 3.1
- Scottish Forestry Strategy 2006
- Scottish Lowlands Forest District Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017
- Central Scotland Forest Strategy
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy
- Glasgow City Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- SNH Landscape Character Assessments for Glasgow and Clyde Valley.
- Scottish Planning Policy, 2014 - Principal Policy on Sustainability and subject policy on a Natural, Resilient Place – Valuing the Natural Environment and Maximising the Benefits of Green Infrastructure
- Historic Environment Scotland - Strategy for Scotland
- Scotland River Basin Management Plan
- Glasgow and Clyde Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2015
- Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (SDP), approved 2012
- Emerging Clydeplan Proposed SDP 2016. Strategy Support Measure Environmental Resources

  Proposed Plan Policy 12 Green Network and Green Infrastructure

  Policy 13 Forestry and Woodland.

  SDP Proposed Plan Background Report 12, January 2015, Forestry and Woodland Strategy

  (http://www.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk/files/BR12_Final3.pdf)

  The adopted East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2, 2011

  Forestry and Woodland Strategy

  East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan (LDP) Proposed Plan (2015).

  Green Infrastructure and Green Network

  Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character Nature Conservation

  Enhancing and Managing the Water Environment

  Valuing the Historic Environment.
- East Dunbartonshire Local Transport Strategy, Core Path Plan and Active Travel Strategy
- East Dunbartonshire Local Economic Development Strategy
- East Dunbartonshire Local Flood Risk Management Plan (due summer 2016)
- Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plans
- Forest Enterprise Scotland – Balcorrach Wood: Analysis of the potential landscape and visual effects of establishing new woodland, 2016
- Forestry Commission Bulletin 62 – Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodland

- Forestry Commission Practice Guide 3 – The management of semi-natural woodlands: 3. lowland mixed broadleaved woods
- Forestry Commission Practice Guide 8 – The management of semi-natural woodlands: 8. wet woodlands
- Forestry Commission Practice Guide 10 – Involving communities in forestry through community participation
- Forestry Commission Practice Guide 12 – Design techniques for forest management planning
- Forestry Commission Practice Guide 19 - Greenspace design for health and well-being
- Guidance about Woodland Creation on Agricultural Land