



## Appendix IV - Consultation Record

Consultee	Date FLS Contacted	Date FLS Responded	Issues Raised	Central Region Response
<p><b>Face-to face Community drop-in events on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026 &amp; Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</b></p>	<p>24/01/26 07/02/26</p>	<p>Draft LMP created 17/02/2026</p>	<p>Consultation period 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026. This was longer than our standard 28 days due to the Holiday/Christmas period.</p> <p><u>Saturday 24th January 12.00pm - 3.00pm. Venue – Callendar Wood Outdoor Event.</u></p> <p>Main issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liked the current variety of path routes, internal landscapes and diversity of trees and seasonal colours. Would like to see ornamental trees retained including larger conifers growing in Callendar Park.</li> <li>• Visitors aren't generally aware or that concerned about the ownership boundary between Callendar Park &amp; Callendar Wood provided long term access is maintained in both areas.</li> <li>• No significant concerns about short-term closures for operations provided there is adequate consultation, signage and alternative paths.</li> <li>• Concern about future condition of path surfaces and drainage - larger stone size more negatively impacts walkers.</li> <li>• Interest in the history of the site and asked where historical information could be accessed.</li> <li>• Enquired about fruit orchards and whether we would be planting more fruit trees.</li> </ul>	<p>Table 2 (Section A.4) of the LMP document references the relevant Sections where each issue has been covered.</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trail bike activity was raised as a negative activity but was not seen as a frequent occurrence.</li><li>• Raised that the woodland doesn't seem too busy or overcrowded.</li><li>• Raised that the woodland is quite enclosed along paths and a lack of visibility can make some users feel unsafe. Welcomed that our proposals would open up the woodland and increase visibility.</li><li>• Raised that the site is used by nursery groups and it was requested that we continue to allow these groups to operate within the woodland.</li></ul> <p><u>Saturday 7th February 12.00pm - 3.00pm. Venue – Callendar House.</u></p> <p>Main issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was significant concern from some attendees about the level of unauthorised quad and trail bike activity in the woodland, and associated risks to other users. They have recorded this activity atleast 50 days this year. The suggestion was made to improve signage and install barriers to restrict unauthorised access.</li><li>• It was raised that during recent invasive species control operations <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> was not being distinguished from other ornamental shrubs such as Bay laurel.</li><li>• It was asked what strategies would be used to control Grey Squirrels.</li></ul>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asked whether any invertebrate surveys have been carried out in Callendar Wood and if there were any online sources of information on wildlife using the site.</li> <li>• It was asked what was being done to control Himalayan Balsalm.</li> <li>• Some suggestions were made on ornamental species: Black elder, Guelder rose, Field maple, Strawberry tree, Red chesnut.</li> </ul>	
<b>British Hedgehog Society</b>	07.12.2025	15.12.25	<p>Hello, I'd ask that these tree types are included in restocking. Beech, hornbeam, oak, apple, cherry, pear and plum. Research has shown their leaf size to be optimum for hedgehogs creating their laminated hibernacula. Conifer needles, birch and willow are too small, London plane and sycamore too large. Hedgehogs are known to frequent the site and surroundings. Thanks for opportunity to comment</p>	<p>Thanks for your feedback on species choice at restocking. Oak and cherry will be used in the restocking and we can use a small proportion of beech &amp; hornbeam. The fruit trees are not normally supplied by our nursery but I've passed to our Environment Team to consider.</p>
<b>Forest Research Agency</b>	07.01.26	07.01.26	<p>I work as a social scientist in the society and environment research group (SERG) at Forest Research, and I've long been interested in the possibility of doing some place-based research in Callendar Woods. Given the timing of the LMP renewal, I wondered whether this might be a good moment to explore whether there could be scope for some low-impact research to sit alongside the plan over time. In particular, I had in mind the possibility of hosting MSc student projects or small longitudinal studies that could support understanding of social use, perceptions, or responses to management interventions as the plan is implemented. At this stage, I'm not proposing anything concrete and would of course only pursue this with your agreement and guidance. I wanted first</p>	<p>This sounds very interesting and aligns with aspirations within the region to assess the social impact /benefit of our work in urban woodlands. We'd be happy to meet and see where we could go with this, if you want to suggest times/dates that could work for you? Or set up a Teams call if that suits better. <i>(Further meetings have been arranged to take this forward as a separate longer term project.)</i></p>



			to ask whether this is the sort of idea that would be of interest in principle, and if so, whether you'd be open to a brief conversation about feasibility, constraints, and what would or wouldn't be appropriate. If helpful, I'm very happy to share more about my background or the kinds of projects I've been involved in previously.	
<b>Local Walker &amp; drop-in event attendee</b>	24.01.26	26.01.26	<p>E-mailed FLS following the event: Having enjoyed walking the various paths around the wood for many decades, I was very pleased to speak to your colleagues today at the Outdoor Drop In Event and look forward to all the planned work taking place.</p> <p>I'd be grateful if the following minor points could be considered regarding the planned work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whilst I understand the need to pave vehicle access tracks with stone aggregate, I (and other walkers I've spoken to) found the aggregate used a few years ago was perfect for puncturing the soles of walking boots as many of the individual stones had very sharp points! Clearly the aggregate is meant to be very hard wearing but is there an alternative such as tree bark or a mix of aggregate &amp; bark that could be used?</li> <li>2. Could more bins be provided? It might entice dog owners to be more considerate (but I doubt it). Then again, more bins might just become targets for bored youths looking for something to set fire to!</li> </ol>	<p>Many Thanks for the feedback &amp; thanks for attending on Saturday, I'll pass your feedback onto our visitor services team to consider. It's likely the initial road upgrade will use a larger stone size to facilitate timber haulage but we may be able to reinstate atleast part of the road width using a finer stone if budget available.</p>



<b>Local volunteer leader &amp; drop-in event attendee</b>	07.02.26	16.02.26	Requested further information on grey squirrel control, invertebrate surveys and online sources of biodiversity data.	<p>I've now received a response from our environment team regarding your questions on grey squirrel control, invertebrate surveys and online sources of biodiversity data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. We currently work in partnership with Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels who coordinate and lead on grey squirrel monitoring and control across the FLS estate. Our focus for grey squirrel control is in contested parts of our land holdings where we have populations of both red and grey squirrel present and where maximum benefits for species can be achieved through active monitoring and control. Given the absence of established red squirrel populations in this area at present, grey squirrel control within Callander woods is not a priority at this time. Due to the nature of the urbanised landscape surrounding this site and numerous adjacent landowners, any efforts to effectively control grey squirrel within Callander park would require a multi stakeholder landscape scale partnership to achieve any significant impact on grey squirrel populations in this area. We'll continue to review our position on this matter and work with adjacent landowners and stakeholders to seek effective solutions where possible going forward.</li><li>2. We don't have comprehensive invertebrate records for this woodland, but a 2014 wildflower meadow survey on Henry's Hill included a list of the invertebrate species observed during the visit. If you would like to have sight of this I can extract and send the species list.</li></ol>
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				<p>3. A useful online database is the mapping service 'NBN Atlas', used to search species sitings and, also, upload sitings by members of the public. I've inserted a link below: <a href="#">Search for records   NBN Atlas</a></p>
<p><b>Falkirk Council Biodiversity Team</b></p>	<p>23.02.26</p>	<p>03.03.26</p>	<p><b>Landscape comments:</b></p> <p>I accept that the removal of the larch and spruce is necessary for the plant health reasons described.</p> <p>Removal of the trees will result in a significant visual impact to woodland users.</p> <p>Over time this will change/reduce with the planting and natural regeneration.</p> <p>Retention of existing Scots Pine will help towards mitigating the visual impact of the works, particularly the views from the surrounding areas (eg from the Callendar Rise estate)</p> <p>Positive proposal to improve the woodland structure and revert to the original policy woodland character</p> <p>Opportunity to include some woodland glades to allow views out from the path network (see for example location attached for views to park/Callendar House/Ochil hills)</p> <p>Support proposed diverse structure which will provide greater variation of habitats and increase biodiversity value of the woodland</p> <p>Balance between natural regeneration area and small-scale native woodland planting to provide more immediate structure needs to be carefully considered in the context of the urban location and high use of the woodland.</p>	<p>Many Thanks for your comments. I've passed your suggestions to the visitor services and environment teams. I believe the environment team is putting together programs of work for the next plan so this information will be useful.</p> <p>With regard to felling of the spruce and larch, this has been the most difficult management decision but given strategic plant health risks associated with these stands and potential disruption to woodland users we decided one single operation was the way forward. Hydrological features will be mapped at the operational planning stage to ensure they're protected from damage/siltation during harvesting but if you'd like to send the locations of specific drains of concern we can feed this into the operational planning process.</p> <p>Kind Regards.</p>



			<p>Opportunities to involve the local community &amp; community groups in planting / activity days to build local "ownership" of the woodland</p> <p>Links with the park and park users - opportunity for involvement as above and for publicising works via social media etc</p> <p>Use of felled timber within the local area (eg within new town hall/arts centre - positive links)</p> <p><b>Biodiversity comments:</b></p> <p>Overall the plan prioritises a shift towards native broadleaved woodland and this is supported. Lowland Broadleaved Woodland is a priority habitat in the new Scottish Biodiversity List, and also a priority for the Falkirk Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Retention of veteran trees, deadwood and the use of natural regeneration will also be positive for biodiversity, though control of emerging conifers will be needed. Control of INNS such as rhododendron is also a positive. Deer management will also need to continue to allow the woodland to regenerate and develop an understorey.</p> <p>I understand that it is necessary to fell the spruce/larch quickly for plant health reasons, however if it is possible to stage that at all it would help avoid some of the abrupt transition for species that will arise from this. Felling a lot of the woodland at once could also lead to an increase in nutrients entering the lake, and ways of mitigating this should also be considered at the project level. This could lead to an increase in toxic blue green algae which is a</p>	
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		<p>concern due to the amount of people and dogs that use the park. Where possible measures should be included to reduce impacts on species from a sudden loss of cover. Removal of so much cover at once could also lead to an increase in blue green algae from additional nutrients entering the lake. The plan could consider ways of reducing nutrients entering this in general.</p> <p>This site is a sloping site with numerous streams, sometimes in culvert. Daylighting these and using bridges to form crossings could be considered as part of the works. Thought could be given to the use of hydrology to create different areas/types of woodland habitat and consideration of potential for wet woodland towards the bottom of the slope, and perhaps creation of ponds within the woodland. Rides or glades as per landscape comments could help increase woodland edge features and also support pollinators.</p> <p>Boundary features are a priority habitat in the Falkirk LBAP. The wall around the edge of the forest does look like it would benefit from some attention. While retaining some nooks and crannies is beneficial for small mammals, amphibians and others, if the wall were to collapse that would be not be ideal and make control of deer more difficult.</p> <p>The disconnect of people from nature is described by the IPBES as a main indirect driver of biodiversity loss. Making sure there continues to be is safe and convenient access to the woodland from Hallglen as well as the Callandar Park side can help address this in the local area.</p>	
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