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22 JAN 2016

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Conservator
John Dougan

Our ref:FDP228


20 Jan 2016

Dear Sir

FOREST DESIGN PLAN – AUCHENINNES

With regard to the above Forest Design Plan we are now satisfied that the work programmed for the next 10 years meets with our requirements and will be reviewed in 5 years time. I can confirm the Forestry Commission's approval.

Yours faithfully

 Alasdair Hendry
Woodland Officer

20 JAN 2016

Aucheninnes Land Management Plan 2015 - 2024



Dumfries and Borders Forest District

Aucheninnes

Forest Design Plan

Approval date: ***

Plan Reference No: ****

Plan Approval Date: *****

Plan Expiry Date: *****

Aucheninnes Land Management Plan 2015 - 2024

FOREST ENTERPRISE - Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals in Scotland

Forest Enterprise - Property

Forest District:	Dumfries & Borders Forest District
Woodland or property name:	Aucheninnes
Nearest town, village or locality:	Dalbeattie
OS Grid reference:	NX84826049
Local Authority district/unitary	Dumfries & Galloway

Areas for approval

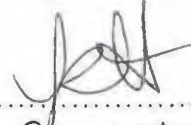
	Conifer	Broadleaf
Clear felling	0	0
Selective felling	0	0
Restocking	0	0
New planting (complete appendix 4)	See below	

1. I apply for **Forest Design Plan** approval*/~~amendment approval*~~ for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Design Plan.
2. * I apply for an opinion under the terms of the **Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 for afforestation/road building*** /~~deforestation*/~~ ~~quarries*~~ as detailed in my application.
3. I confirm that the initial scoping of the plan was carried out with FC staff in 2012
4. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
5. I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the FC agreed must be included.
6. I confirm that agreement has been reached with all of the stakeholders over the content of the design plan and that there are no outstanding issues to be addressed. Copies of consultee endorsements of the plan are attached.
7. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed


Forest District Manager *pp*

Signed


Conservator

District

Dumfries & Borders

Conservancy

South Scotland

Date

20/1/16

Date of Approval

20/01/16

Date approval ends:

20/01/26

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Aucheninnes Land Management Plan 2015 - 2024

UKWAS summary sheet

Description	Percentage of Forest block	Location of data
New Planting main conifer species (SP)	4%	Forester restock layer
New planting other conifers species	0	Forester restock layer
Open space	51%	Forester restock layer
Native broadleaves	25%	Forester restock layer
Managed for conservation/biodiversity NR, MI incl conservation grazing	50%	Forester management layer
Long Term Retentions	0	Forester management layer
Natural reserve	3.6%	Forester management layer

Aucheninnes Land Management Plan 2015 - 2024

4. Proposal details of woodland creation

See section 5.5 for full details

Area Name or number	Gross	P Year	Spp	Area ha	Open ha	Comments
Oak nests and SC matrix	1	2016	OK/SC	1		Productive broadleaves. SC = Sweet Chestnut coppice.
Oak nests and SYC matrix	9	2016	OK/SYC	9		Productive broadleaves. SYC = Sycamore.
SP Oak	0.50	2016	SP OK	0.50		Conservation planting
Scots Pine	2.99	2016	SP	2.99		Commercial planting
Grazing	33.00	2016			33.00	Conservation grazing
Open land	6.6	2016			6.6	
NBL Shrubs	0.30	2016		0.30		Native broadleaved shrubs
Oak nests and MB matrix	5.47	2016	OK MB	5.47		Productive broadleaves
Existing Woodland	10.36	2016		10.36		Existing scrub woodland 8.0ha (yellow on map). Existing native woodland (purple on map) = 2.76ha.
NBL enrich 500/ha	8.0	2016	MB	8.0		Shown as yellow on map including 7.6ha existing scrub (above). Total yellow area 15.6.
Water	0.17	2016			0.17	
	77.4			37.6	39.7	

I apply for authority to create a woodland as above and as shown on the attached map. I undertake to obtain the necessary permissions from the appropriate statutory body before commencing work under any approval which is granted.

Signed Alan Binnie Signed Jed
 Forest District Manager AP Conservator
 District D+B Conservancy South Scotland

Date 20/1/16 Approval Date 20/01/16
 Date approval ends 20/01/26

Aucheninnes Land Management Plan 2015 - 2024

CSM 6 Appendix 4

FOREST ENTERPRISE - Application for Approval of Woodland Creation

1. Forest Enterprise – Property

Forest District:	Dumfries & Borders Forest District
Woodland or property name:	Aucheninnes
Nearest town, village or locality:	Dalbeattie
OS Grid reference:	NX84826049
Local Authority district/unitary	Dumfries & Galloway

2. Proposed areas to nearest tenth of a hectare

New Planting	27.26
Existing plantation/woodland	10.36
Natural Colonisation	
Open Ground	39.7
Total	77.4

3. Special areas and protected land

Designation	Area Name or Number	Comments
N/A		

4.0 Analysis and Concept

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4. Future habitats and management
5. Archaeology Survey
6. Native Woodland Survey and inventory
7. Agricultural potential report and Land Capability for Agriculture
8. Open habitats survey
9. Soil Survey and Soil Map
10. River Basin Management Plan
11. Landscape Character Assessment
12. Current Climate data
13. Timber Transport Routes
14. Evidence of consultation
15. 3D visualisations

Summary of Proposals

The primary aim of this proposal is woodland expansion. Through extensive survey and analysis, the project also aims to protect or enhance the value of the most important wildlife habitats through exclusion of planting in these areas and creating areas of conservation grazing. The most important habitats are a unique mosaic of different open habitat. This resultant design is an integration of forestry and agriculture across the acquisition area.

There are good soils and climate in this area and potential to deliver high quality diverse timber products in the long term. There is significant tree species diversity including broadleaves, which will help strengthen the value of the existing native broadleaves.



Being located immediately next to the existing Dalbeattie forest, there is potential for public access opportunities and the plan encourages responsible informal access.

Aucheninnes Land Management Plan 2015 - 2024

We manage Scotland's National Forest Estate to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the international Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.



The mark of responsible forestry



1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Setting and context

Location – The site extends to some 77.4ha and will be an expansion of Dalbeattie Forest. It is situated immediately South East of Dalbeattie with most of the site situated within 1km of the town.

Land use – For the past few centuries this area of largely unimproved land has been used for grazing of sheep and some cattle. Although there are some trees on site these have not been managed and are not regenerating due to the grazing intensities.

Elevation & Aspect – It lies between 40m and 65m contour with a generally east facing aspect, with significant shelter provided by nearby Dalbeattie Forest.

Soils – In the South end of the site soils range from deep peats to skeletal over granite in rough grazing area with some 50% of this part of the site having 20-25cm brown earth over aggregate/ bedrock of the Dalbeattie series. Fertile brown earth to the North.

Access – Access to the land is reasonable from either an internal farm track leading to a former quarry or off the adjacent public highway (B793). There is also a potential access road from within Dalbeattie forest at Tinkers Loaning to the south.

Environment – There is circa 12 Ha of deep peat/ blanket bog on site with main concentrations to the south in hollows between granite ridges. There are a number of natural woodland areas, which although not designated “ancient woodland sites” could be strengthened or expanded. Water flows northwards to Kirkgunzeon Lane and through Dalbeattie and flood management will be an important consideration in the design.

Landscape - A number of straight edges can be seen against the existing Dalbeattie forest national forest estate. There will be opportunities to use the granite outcrop features and landform in the future design of the area.

Heritage - There are no scheduled ancient monuments but there are a number of stone built structures typically used as farm animal handling pens, also quarry sites.

Biodiversity – Aucheninnes has much open habitat interest with a number of different National Vegetation Classification NVC categories. These include a large range of UKBAP priority habitats. .

There are two main areas of ecological interest relating to the open habitats of the site:

1) The quality and range of lowland mires, i.e. the lowland raised bogs and lowland fens.

2) The rarity and diversity values of the mosaic of lowland priority habitat types.

There is opportunity to protect and improve these areas in the future design.

Existing Woodland – Scatter of site native broadleaves over rough grazing area with concentrations around former quarry and cattle shed running northwards.

Social – There is little current public access through the site as there are many fences. 85% of land falls within the 1km WIAT buffer (Woodlands in and around towns) for Dalbeattie. The landscape from the public roadside shows the area being heavily fenced with few opportunities currently for public access.

All operations will be carried out to the internationally recognised forestry standards as required under UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

This woodland is part of Dumfries and Borders Forest District and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Certified woodlands are subject to regular audit by an independent audit body against the requirements of UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS). UKWAS is the independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the UK.

1.2 History of the site

The site has been in agriculture for the past few centuries. The South end has been largely rough grazing and shrubs, trees and some gorse has been allowed to regenerate. The north end has been more intensive agriculture with silage and hay being common place.

1.3 Planning Context

The management of the Forestry Commission Scotland's NFE (National Forest Estate) is guided by Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) 2006, which sets out seven key themes:

- **Climate change**
- **Timber**
- **Business development**
- **Community development**
- **Access & Health**
- **Environmental quality**
- **Biodiversity**

Management of the national Forest Estate is guided by Strategic Directions document <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/plans-and-strategies>

2.0 Analysis of previous plan

There is no previous plan for this site given it was in agriculture.

3.0 Background information

3.1 Physical site factors

3.1.1 Geology Soils and landform

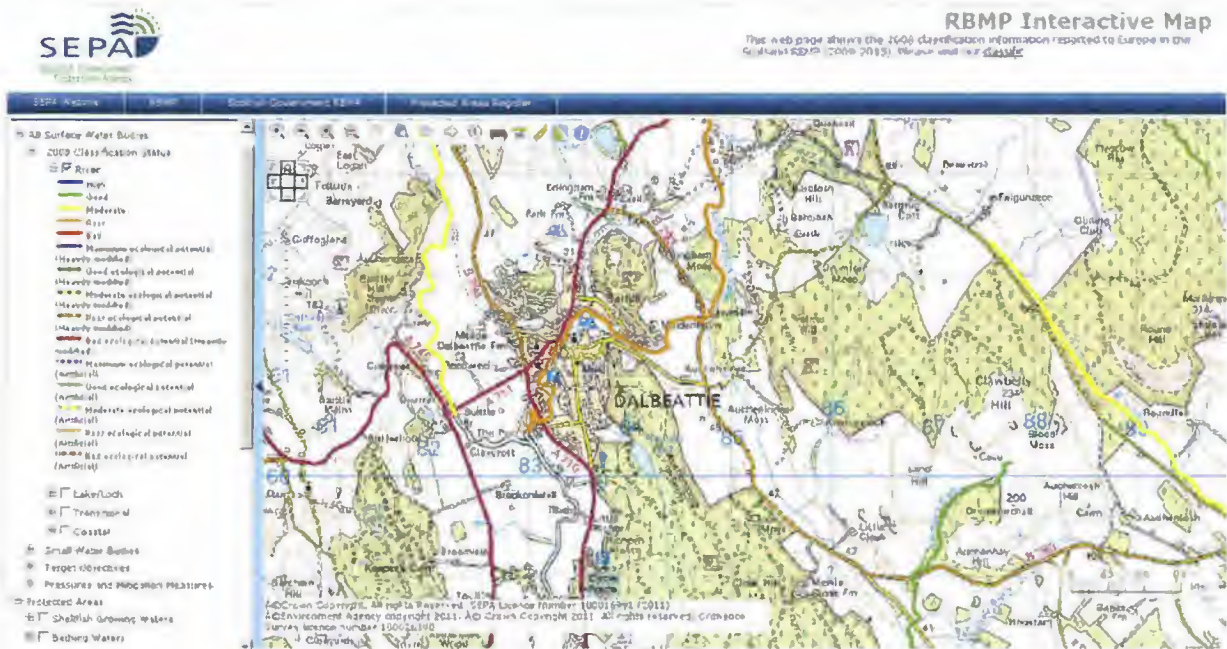
See soil map for full details.

In the North of the area the land is mostly brown earth rolling fields with wetter areas and also a few rocky areas.

In the South there is a complex mosaic of deep peats, rocky outcrops, and brown earth fields. The intricate detail of this is used to design the woodland expansion area and conservation grazing.

3.1.2 Water

SEPA has River Basement Management Plans for water courses. The RBMP identifies the status and the threats of each catchment (2008) and promotes management to achieve overall good status or at least ensure no deterioration in status.

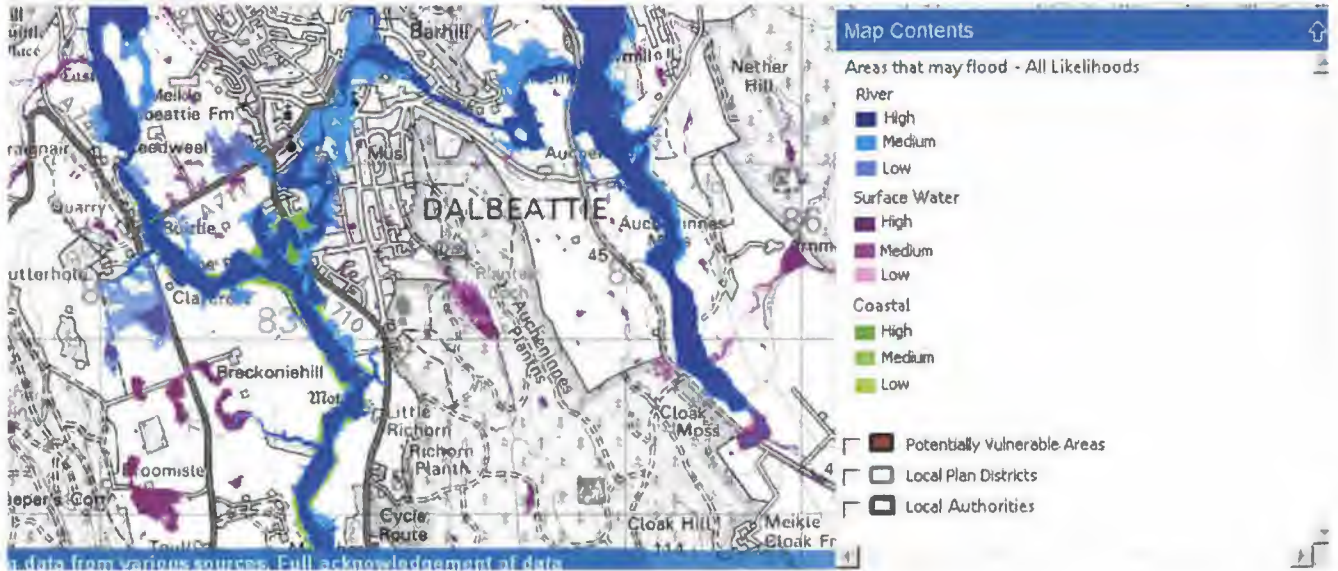


SEPA have classified this water body (Kirkgunzeon Lane) as having an overall status of Moderate with High confidence in 2012 with overall ecological status of Moderate and overall chemical status of Pass. Note the map above gives the location of the burn shown in orange (poor status in 2008). This is a positive improvement from poor to moderate over time.

Good forest design planning on this new planting site will not put additional pressure on the site; removal of some farm animals will reduce diffuse pollution.

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SEPA flood risk maps (below) identify Dalbeattie town as high risk of flooding and as such the forest plan needs to ensure that mitigation is built into the plan to avoid increasing flood risk and indeed if possible designing the woodland to provide wider mitigation – slowing the flow of water by provision of wetlands.



It is appreciated that new planting can provide faster run off in the period soon after planting due to the forest drains. Given the proximity of the site to this high risk area care must be taken in the plan to provide run off and buffer areas.

The adjacent houses are served by the following water supplies

1. Cherrytree – private water supply
2. Crinan Cottage – Public supply
3. Aucheninnes (two houses) – Public supply.

Clearly mitigation of forest design will be considered for the private supply at Cherrytree.

3.1.3 Climate

Current Climate

The current climate maps show that the majority of the site is warm, moist and sheltered, with a small element of moderately exposed.

Future Climate

In terms of future climate this site sits on the boundaries between the wetter West and the drier East predictions and as such Moisture Deficit is not expected to create any problems for forestry in the next rotation. Accumulated temperature is forecast to increase and as such become more suitable for oak, Sweet Chestnut and Douglas Fir, all of which like the warmth and will do better with extended growing season and higher temperatures. We do not have prediction for wind but we expect more extreme events and as such edge design will be important.

3.2 Biodiversity and environmental designations

Open Habitats

Aucheninnes is an exceptional site in terms of its open habitat interest. There are a large range of UKBAP priority habitats present (ten) as well as at least 24 National Vegetation Classification NVC categories.

There are two main areas of ecological interest relating to the open habitats of the site:

- 1) The quality and range of lowland mires, i.e. the lowland raised bogs and lowland fens and;
- 2) The rarity and diversity values of the mosaic of lowland priority habitat types. This site is unique in the context of the national forest estate in that respect.

For further information see the Open habitat Survey report and maps.

Native Woodlands

There are already some native woodlands on the site and full details can be explored in the native woodland report. In summary, although there are no ancient woodland records for the site there are many fragments of native woodland including a patchy mosaic of oak, rowan, birch and hawthorn. These existing trees have been heavily grazed over the past



few decades and there has been little opportunity for successful natural regeneration. With removing the cattle and sheep on the drier land this will create an opportunity for successful natural regeneration of native broadleaves species.

Species

A full bird survey (winter and breeding survey) was carried out on the site and although there was some interest it is considered that the proposals will not have an negative impact on the birds given the retained open land (including priority open habitats) and the neighbouring land available for birds.

Nightjars used Dalbeattie Forest as breeding sites 10-20 years ago but there have been none recorded recently. Nevertheless they may return if we provide appropriate habitat like the open habitats at the back of Aucheninnes. This open habitat with adjoining woodland and individual trees will be ideal. Also within 3 km of Aucheninnes there are five recently felled clearfell sites in Dalbeattie block plus Southwick Station plus Netherhill and therefore there is already adequate habitat. There clearfell sites plus permanent open land at Aucheninnes plus the permanent open land in Dalbeattie forest will provide adequate potential breeding sites.

Red squirrels are a FCS Priority species and they are present in and around Dalbeattie. Grey squirrels are also present in the area and Grey squirrel Control will be undertaken as required. There are already many large seeded broadleaves in and around the lower areas of Dalbeattie and the Solway coast and as such addition planting of large seeded broadleaves at Aucheninnes will not give the greys any significant advantage.

Farming and Forestry Integration

See Agricultural advisors report for further information. In summary, there is an opportunity to build in some grazing in two or three fields within the new woodland. Specifically this "conservation grazing" will help maintain the quality of large areas of priority open habitat whilst also supporting some local agriculture. Importantly the grazing areas must have good access, water supplies and good proportions of dry lie areas where the animals can get out of the wet areas as they wish – particularly important in the wetter weather.

See Land capability for agriculture map. It is noted that the land is mixed agriculture, none of the land is arable. The 3.2 land in the North is better quality than the poor quality land in the South but given the area has WIAT

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status (FCS Woodlands in and around town status) the proposal is to plant this area of 3.2 with trees.

3.3 The existing forest:

3.3.1 Age structure, species and yield class

A few small areas of native woodland scrub with little evidence of natural regeneration. See native woodland report for full details.

3.3.2 Access

Because the land is currently in agriculture with stock fencing and sheep and cattle are present public access is limited. Although there is some current public access on the South side of Kirkgunzeon lane including fishing and informal walking. Further South there is less public access. The plan area is a WIAT wood (Woodlands in and around towns) and also the land adjoins the existing Dalbeattie Forest where there is already formal and informal public access opportunities. Removing the access restrictions caused by farm animals and fencing will make it easier for informal public access under the Scottish outdoor access code and some visitors may like to gain access through onto this new area.

Operational access is currently limited to field gates beside the public road and an old Land Rover track to the disused quarry. There is potential to develop one or two of these points to allow access for tree establishment machinery, future thinning and felling. There is also potential to link an existing dead end road through from Tinkers loaning. Any amendments to access points that adjoin the public road will require planning permission from the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council.

3.3.3 LISS potential

Given the favourable soils and the climate, and the potential for a variety of tree species and thinning there is significant potential for Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) in the longer term once trees are established. The site lends itself towards productive broadleaves managed under a CCF system.

3.3.4 Current and potential markets

There is currently high demand for white softwood construction quality timber and with one of the largest processing mills on the doorstep at Kenmuir this would seem top be the obvious solution. However the site does have potential for high quality softwood sawlogs (e.g. DF, WRC, SP etc) and also productive broadleaves for hardwood. There are many niche markets for these different

timber types and an example locally is WRC for wood cladding which is difficult to source locally. A resource of diverse species at Aucheninnes will help meet this demand for alternative timber types. In term of white softwood, there are many larger areas with much greater soil and climate limitations across South Scotland where it will remain the priority. As a result of these factors, along with the driver to diversify for other reasons including climate change, social and environment, the proposal will include significant diversity in species.

3.4 Landscape and landuse

3.4.1 Landscape character and value

Aucheninnes sits within the Coastal Granite Uplands Landscape Character type by SNH. The definition is: *"The granite hills are steep-sided and rugged, but glacial till overlies the granite at lower levels, creating a smaller scale hummocky topography which contrasts with the large scale of the granite masses. Coastal influences, combined with the altitude of this landscape type, give it a generally exposed character. The characteristic landcover is varied and changes quite dramatically from improved pasture, in more sheltered areas, to rough grassland and gorse in higher or more exposed locations. Fields are generally of medium size and often contain rocky outcrops and boulders. Most are enclosed by granite stone walls. The more easterly examples of the type are quite well forested, with larger woods at Mabie and Dalbeattie. Settlement is sparse and consists primarily of isolated farm buildings"*

Design guidance within this character type includes:

"Woodland shapes should relate strongly to the landform, with irregular, interlocking patterns. These shapes should apply both to overall woodland form and to the patterns of species and open ground within them.

- *The scale of planting should increase with elevation, with larger elements at higher elevations grading down to smaller scale on lower slopes. The proportion of planted to unplanted and the proportion of species components within woodlands should respect the 'thirds rule'.*

- *Diversity should gradually decrease with elevation, with more complex patterns on lower slopes. Crags, screes and rocky outcrops should remain visible within woodlands and upper margins should grade out to scrub and gorse on open ground.*

- *New woodlands should be designed to reflect specific site character,*

retaining elements of diversity and a balance with unplanted ground.
• *Conserve the distinctive character of the granite hills and open summits, especially those seen from the surrounding area."*

The value of this landscape character is high locally. Dalbeattie forest strongly influences the landscape character and locals value the rugged and remote feel. There are high numbers of tourists who visit the coastal villages and Dalbeattie and the landscape is part of the attraction.

3.4.2 Visibility

Aucheninnes will be seen from within the exiting Dalbeattie Forest as well as those travelling on the Dalbeattie to Sandyhills public road. The viewpoints chosen for the design include;

VP (Viewpoint) 1 – NX84546093 Aucheninnes Farm House

VP3 – NX84756093 Aucheninnes Cross roads

VP2 - NX85586125 Nether Hill

Later in this plan document there are visualisations of the proposed woodland design.

3.4.3 Neighbouring landuse

To the West and South is Dalbeattie forest managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. To the South East is Cloak moss and open habitats. To the North and East is grazing land, recycling areas and large sawmill. There are 4 domestic properties on the edge of the proposed woodland area and consultation during the development of the plan will ensure impact is minimised.

3.5 Social factors

3.5.1 Recreation

There are no recreation facilities currently on the site. Very few people gain public access on the South area. Some people walk alongside Kirkgunzeon Lane on the North area.

3.5.2 Community

The site boundary is only 700m from Dalbeattie town centre and the site also backs directly onto the town and this combined with an interest by the community including Dalbeattie Forest Partnership we hope that this community interest will help drive the direction of the forest design and also the future management of the woodlands. Full consultation will be undertaken during design including public drop in and publishing draft scenarios on the internet. Feedback will be taken at all stages.

3.5.3 Heritage

See archaeology survey for detailed information.

An archaeological desk based assessment and walkover survey was undertaken in August 2012 of an area around Aucheninnes, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire (NGR: NX 846 606). The archaeological works were required to assist Dumfries & Borders Forest District with their Forest Design Plan proposal. The ground, which extends to roughly 77.4 hectares, comprises a mix of rough grazing and improved pasture ground. The objective of the study was to identify any archaeological sites within the proposed development area and where appropriate suggest measures to avoid any direct adverse impact on the archaeology. The desk based assessment depicted the possibility for the remains of at least two possible archaeological sites within the survey area. The walkover survey revealed the remains of four possible sites of archaeological interest.

The sites include farmstead, stone clearance, possible potato store, field boundary and site of remains of a chapel.

The overriding principle is to identify the archaeology and to provide protection from operations and also freedom to access. Full mitigation proposals are in section 5.

3.6 Deer and other animal threats

Deer

Roe deer are a significant threat to new woodland in this area and given the proposed softer species including broadleaves deer fencing will be proposed across large parts of the site. Public access will be enhanced via provision of gates and design of the actual deer fence layout. Consideration will be given to proximity of neighbouring properties.

Hares

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Hares will be threat to the trees and the bottom of the deer fence will have rabbit netting to exclude hares from the new woodland.

Voles may be a threat and vole guards will be considered nearer the time of operations depending on vole populations.

Farm animals

The animals used for the conservation grazing will be enclosed in the fields either by stock fencing or indeed by the adjacent deer fence.

4.0 Analysis and Concept

4.1 Analysis

The Analysis and Concept map shows the factors that have significantly influenced the development of design and long term vision of this forest.

Main factors were identified as:

- Priority Open habitats and integration with agriculture/ conservation grazing
- Potential for diverse tree species and timber productivity
- Potential for public access and community development

4.2 Concepts of the plan

The design concept has been graphically presented in the site analysis and design concept maps.

The thought process in developing the concept is set out below.

Key issues

Factor	Opportunity	Constraint (limitation or restriction)	Concept Development
Woodland Expansion	Access Timber production Biodiversity Sequester carbon	Archaeology Open Habitats Neighbour constraints	Identify areas for timber production and also those areas for native woodland (biodiversity) and design and appropriate woodland/forest.
Tree Species Choice	Excellent soils Excellent climate Potential for productive broadleaves for hardwood. Potential for species diversity	Rocky outcrops and rocks. Intimate nature of site (especially to the south)	Choose tree species to deliver the management objectives; Maximise the species diversity Productive broadleaves for high quality hardwood sawlogs Native broadleaved species to strengthen the biodiversity. Alternative conifers to support the social and environmental objectives.

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Forest Structure	CCF Thinnings Natural Reserves	Rocky nature for access – particularly if complex structure chosen	Plan the forest now for potential for thinning and management under a CCF management system e.g. species, access, proportions, species layout. Identify, assign and protect existing natural reserves. Identify areas with potential for future natural reserves and manage under Minimal Intervention. Once established these may become NR's
Priority open habitats and conservation grazing	Identify and protect open habitats Provide grazing opportunity.	Limits the planting area. Careful planning to ensure access for managing the farm animals. Additional fencing.	Identify open habitats, rationalise the field shapes, create grazing fields, identify appropriate grazing type and intensities. Identify dry lie and shelter areas whilst minimising fencing commitments. Ensure safe public access between and around the fields.
Change of Landscape/Landuse.	Build on Coastal Granite Uplands Landscape Character as set out by SNH. Improve access opportunities.	Power lines limit landscape design. Access tracks. Neighbouring community may resist the change. Impact on farming.	Design the forest to the principles set out for this specific Landscape Character Type (Coastal Granite Uplands). Consult with neighbours, farmers and community to understand the concerns and build in mitigation where compatible with the wider management objectives.
Recreation, Tourism and Access	Increase in access opportunity. Links to Dalbeattie Forest	Existing Sheep/Cattle restrict the public access.	Design the site layout and fencing of the woodland and fields to encourage freedom to roam.
Archaeology	Easier access with fewer farm animals	Risk of damage from planting operations	Identify relevant archaeology, mark on site and exclude from planting design.
Wildlife species	Can provide improved habitat		Design forest to help protect red squirrel and key waders.

5.0 Forest Design Plan Proposals

5.1.1 Management types

Please see Management map for details of locations. The area will be managed in the following management type;

- Natural reserves will be created where there is existing mature native woodland.
- Areas of native woodland being enriched will be managed as Minimal Intervention
- Main planting areas will be classified as management under a CCF system. Please note, these are not currently CCF areas but all management should be aimed at CCF management in the future.
- The conservation grazing fields will be "open" management type.

5.1.2 Future Habitats and Species

There are several different species of trees being planned across Aucheninnes in order to fulfil the management objectives. In addition there is an area of open land proposed for conservation grazing to help maintain the high quality priority open habitats.

On the main productive area will include **Oak nests and sycamore matrix**. This will incorporate a large area of productive broadleaves as the climate, soils and management objectives for the site deem this appropriate. Oak nests (small groups of closely planted trees) containing 25 trees (spacing of c.50cm) will be spaced 10-14 meters apart (c.80 oak nests/ha) and around each nest shall be 16 hornbeam to act as a nurse for the oak. A matrix of Sycamore planted between the nests at a high density 3000 per ha).

In this model of oak and Sycamore which is practiced in England, the predominant standards will be the oak and the coppice will mainly be the sycamore although where the best quality sycamore develop into best quality bowls for swan wood, some sycamore will be grown to maturity. Most of the sycamore will be managed under a coppice system.

The timber utilisation will include firewood from the smaller stems, and sometime turnery. Sawlogs demand high prices and are used for furniture and flooring. Outstanding butts may be marketed for veneer.

Coppice with standards is a two story forest where amongst the coppice (underwood) some trees (standards) are grown on for high quality larger size timber. The length of time a standard is retained will depend on desired log size and species growth rate; oak are generally retained for 5-6 coppice cycles (100-130 years). Oak will produce vigorous epicormic growth and unless these are controlled in some way high quality timber cannot be produced.

Summary

Each nest will consist of 41 trees (25 oak and 16 hornbeam)

Between nests Sycamore will be planted at 4000/ha

The final outcome will be productive broadleaf plantation

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On the main productive area we will include 1 hectare of **Oak standards and Sweet Chestnut Coppice***. Oak nests (small groups of closely planted trees) containing 25 trees (spacing of c.50cm) will be spaced 10-14 meters apart (c.80 oak nests/ha) and around each nest shall be 16 hornbeam to act as a nurse for the oak. A matrix of Sweet Chestnut planted between the nests at a high density 3000 per ha).



This model of oak standards and sweet chestnut coppice is widely used in England (and by far the most common "coppice with standards" – 42%). Other much less common examples include ash, sycamore and hazel. Rotations of the SC coppice varies between 12 and 16 years and yield approx 50-110m³/ha. SC coppice has many uses including fence posts, fence pailings, poles, hurdles, rustic furniture, corduroy roading, riverbank revetments and firewood etc. The main use is fencing and poles due to its very high natural durability of the wood.

This model offers significant diversity in timber products as well as maximising the ecological and biodiversity value of the site, particularly once the oak matures.

Coppice with standards is a two story forest where amongst the coppice (underwood) some trees (standards) are grown on for high quality larger size timber. The length of time a standard is retained will depend on desired log size and species growth rate; oak are generally retained for 5-6 coppice cycles (100-130 years). Oak will produce vigorous epicormic growth and unless these are controlled in some way high quality timber can not be produced.

**FC Bulitin 62 Silviculture of Broadleaved Woodlands JEvans Pg 76-80*

Other options e.g. 100% oak planting were considered but this example was ruled out on cost of buying, planting and establishing so may oak.

Summary

Each nest will consist of 41 trees (25 oak and 16 hornbeam)

Between nests Sweet Chestnut will be planted at 3000/ha

The final outcome will be productive broadleaf plantation



On the best of the land in the South block a different planting matrix and species composition is proposed as this area has a slightly rougher terrain and has not been cultivated as extensively as the areas being managed in the North fields. In these fields we are proposing **Oak/Native mixed broadleaves**.

Oak/Scots pine and Douglas Fir had been considered in these fields and this would deliver the management objectives of the site. Scots pine would have linked well with other SP on the site but some of the neighbours were concerned about the light levels when the low winter sun was setting in the West and therefore we changed this proposal to a "lighter" foliage of broadleaves which of course do not have leaves in the winter months.

The design of planting in this area will again be oak nests of 25 trees (50 cm spacing) planted at a density of c.80 nests/ha within a ring of 16 hornbeam around each nest to act as a nurse. Between the oak nests mixed broadleaves including birch, aspen, rowan, hazel, alder at a spacing of 3000 per ha. The oak nest will need to be clearly identified with physical markers in order to avoid damage.

Summary

Each nest will consist of 41 trees (25 oak and 16 hornbeam)

Between nests NBL will be planted at 3000/ha

The final outcome will be productive broadleaf plantation strengthening the existing native broadleaf area

Close to Cherrytree is proposed **100% MB shrubs** (Hazel, hawthorn, black thorn). This is planted adjacent to house to act as a transition between residential land and the woodland. The low height of the shrubs will also reduce the feeling of the house being enclosed by trees.

Summary

NBL shrubs at 3000 per ha. Final outcome aims to be a low height area of shrubs acting as a transition between open land and forest.

The management of the raised area **behind Crinan Cottage and on the roadside** will incorporate a mosaic of microclimatic planting sites with shallow rooting, rocky outcrops and pockets with deeper rooting depth. The better land (but still rocky!) be established with the objective of producing productive alternative conifers (Scots Pine) on the pockets of soil. Commercial planting density of 2700 stems/ha as per the polygons indicated on the planting map.

Summary

Scots pine planted at 2700 per ha. Final outcome aims to be productive conifer, thinned and later being managed as a form of CCF.

The rougher areas with shallower rooting depth will be enriched with native tree species of rowan, hawthorn, birch, crab apple and oak, to enrich the existing tree cover. Enrichment will be 500 trees per ha. With grazing removed natural regeneration will increase over time.

Summary

NBL planted at c.500 per ha, NBL existing and natural regeneration of c.600/ha together making fully stocked native woodland @ 1100/ha. Final outcome aims to be non-productive native woodland and shrubs

Close to the old quarry this area is a crucial part in linking access between the existing Dalbeattie Forest and the new planting within Aucheninnes. It is located between the two grazing fields and will be planted with SP/OK 50/50 at total of 3000stems/ha to enrich the existing native woodland already there. The size of the groups is limited by the physical terrain (hard rock) and existing scrub and trees. These small areas will be protected from deer by small 1m high exclosures.

Summary

OAK/SP 50/50 total 3000/ha. Final outcome aims to be natural woodland of locally and nationally important species and native broadleaved species for wildlife and recreation benefits.

Throughout the wider area there are areas proposed for enriching native broadleaves including; beside water courses/burn, around existing native scrub/rocky areas. NBL enrichment input will vary from 300 to 700 per ha and this

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together with existing NBL, the area will be fully established at 1100 trees per ha. Most of these areas are within a deer fence but the area close to the quarry will require stake and tube protection from deer and weeds.

Summary

NBL planted at 300 to 700 per ha, NBL existing and natural regeneration of c.600/ha together making fully stocked native woodland at 1100/ha. Final outcome aims to be non-productive native woodland and shrubs

There are fields retained within the new woodland and a full description of these can be found in section 5.1.5

5.1.3 Restructuring

As this is a new planting site, restructuring is not applicable.

5.1.4 Operational Access

New forest Roads – To enable access for establishment and subsequent maintenance and harvesting operations two existing farm accesses are planned for substantial improvement and upgraded to allow access by articulated wagons. As shown on the map these entrances include a very short road into the site and a turning point so that vehicles can enter and exit in forward direction. These accesses will be subject to planning permission approval by the regional council. Initial survey indicates that sight lines are good and also the entrances are on agreed timber transport routes.

Farm tracks – are required to enable successful management of the grazing fields. The main access point will be at NX84976047 on the B793 some 300m SSE of Cherry tree. This access point will be shared for agriculture/forestry purposes. In practice the farmer will unload his/her quad at this point and use a sheepdog and he/she will want to travel up and down the grazing fields gathering and counting the sheep and cattle. The farm tracks are low standard and low cost but can be accessed by quad. Some excavation/scraping is required but impact levels will be low.

Forest thinning tracks – Similar to the Farm track but wider to accommodate future forest machinery, these tracks are identified on the ground and kept clear of planting. Some excavation/scraping will be required but again impact will be low.

5.1.5 Thinning plans

Being a new planting site, thinning operations are some way off, but given the long term aspiration for management under a Continuous Cover Forestry system the site layout, species and access arrangements are considered at this time. The plan is to thin the productive broadleaved areas (whilst protecting the oak nests, perhaps with physical markers e.g. stob) and also the Scots Pine area. The remainder of the area will be managed under a minimal intervention system.

5.1.6 Deer Management

Roe deer are a constant threat in this area and given the high level of investment to productive broadleaves the proposal is to deer fence the majority of the new woodland. Other protection measures were considered including tube/stake but given the intensity of the planting and the large size of the area deer fencing enclosures will be more effective and a better cost effective option.

5.1.7 Management of open land

In the South block there are two fields proposed for conservation grazing. The large areas of **MIRE/WETLAND** area across the site will remain unplanted along with the immediately adjacent rock areas that can be used for dry lye for the cattle / sheep conservation grazing. The main objective here is conservation grazing and appropriate grazing intensity will be set and formal monitoring on regular basis to ensure the habitat remains open whilst maintaining its high biodiversity value. This plan commits to conservation grazing in these two areas during the 10 years of the plan approval. In the South of this area a dozen or so individual Scots Pine are proposed to be planted on the rocky ridges to act as parkland type trees. These will be individually protected by post and rail enclosures and in the long-term should mimic the mature SP that are already on the site.

There is a small area of **PURPLE MOOR GRASS & RUSH PASTURE and LOWLAND FEN** priority open habitats in the North block and ideally should be grazed to maintain its quality. A small area of dry lye area is kept in the SE of this polygon under a powerline where the grazing animals can escape to in wet weather. It is noted that this is a very small area and it may be difficult to secure interest by a grazier and as such there is **no commitment** in this plan to conservation grazing. If natural regeneration of trees exceeds 25% across this area (and in excess of 2m in height) these trees will be removed during the plan approval period.

5.1.8 Public Access and Core Paths

There are no Core paths on the site. As there are currently farm animals on the site public access is very low.

The proposal includes a number of measures to encourage informal public access;

1. The removal of the stock from large areas of the site will make it easier for people to enjoy the site including its mosaic of lowland mires, archaeology and general wildlife and we encourage this informal access which is guided by the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

2. The key access opportunity is through from the existing Dalbeattie forest where there are existing desire lines. An area of new woodland is planned immediately adjacent to the existing Dalbeattie Forest. Access points will be made through the existing stone dyke and the design will mean that people can walk freely through from Dalbeattie Forest into this new area by the disused quarry. They may then walk Eastwards towards the public road and the fencing design here will be as such that they can walk through uninterrupted by gates.
3. At the South end of the new planting area a new track is being created from the dead end road at Tinkers Loaning, through the grazing field and into the new woodland behind Crinan Cottage. This track is essentially for operational access by the farmer and the forester but the more adventurous may choose to use this track as part of a wider informal route/loop.
4. In the North Block there is potential for access too. A few people already walk up Southwick road from Dalbeattie and around the bypass to Edingham. The removal of the farm stock will allow easier access through and in behind Aucheninnes farm, potentially taking people off the busy public road and making things safer. There is also a very pleasant route along the South side of Kirkgunzeon Lane. The proposed new operational access on the East side of this block will also make site access easier and safer.
5. We plan to install pedestrian/horse gates at points in the deer fence and stock fence where we would most expect people to want to get through from one part of the wood to another. The plan aims to avoid increasing public access through, and into neighbouring residential gardens.
6. Threshold signage will be installed on the site and we hope that the Forestry Commission brand will encourage public access.
7. When it comes to reviewing the next Solway Forests leaflet the potential desire lines on Aucheninnes can be marked on.

5.1.9 Heritage Features

Site 1 R. Shaw report – Stone / Field Clearance. Unfortunately given the location of the proposed road this feature will be lost – this has been checked

with FCS Archaeologist and this action is appropriate given the low importance of the site.

Site 2 – Sunken feature. Planting will be excluded from this feature as per the planting plan but a deer fence will be erected very close to the feature.

Site 3 – Stone footings of rectangular feature. – Planting and operations will avoid this site as per plan. Also 100m to the Northwest additional feature to be kept clear of trees and machines.

Site 4 – Stone boundary – To help protect the feature this area is included in the grazing field and operations will avoid the feature.

Site 5 – Chapel (possible remains of...)

[1] "There are no visible remains of this site but its probable location is recorded on mapping from 1854. It is recorded that the foundations were removed circa 1800 (Name Book 1850). [Nothing was found during excavation to actually look for the chapel in 1980s.] However, the foundations of a rectangular structure was recorded closer to Aucheninnes (NX 8464 6098) which were still visible in 1994." (R Shaw 2012, 13).

[2] "As there seems little doubt from historical and cartographic records that the chapel did exist, it can be theorised that the structural remains of the actual chapel have been ploughed away or that they still exist closer to Aucheninnes." (R Shaw 2012, 4).

[3] R Shaw (2012) recommended the following mitigation: "although no visible remains exist of Site 5 [the chapel] this could be because it is sited closer to Aucheninnes rather than in the areas that have already been subject to examination. Therefore the extant area of the chapel should either be excluded from the planting design or subject to archaeological monitoring." [Although it is clear the chapel is no longer 'extant', its likely location was recorded by OS surveyors].

[4] Given the level of archaeological excavation in the past (designed to look for the chapel) and the improved nature of the land (ploughed and drained), it is very likely that the record from the OS Name Book in 1850 (that the "foundations were removed circa 1800") is correct and that limited below ground archaeological potential is all that survives (at the location recorded by the OS 1st edition and investigated by Manchester University in the 1980s).

The proposal for site 5 is using 'sensitive mounding' in the surrounding area as the establishment process (ie no massive quarry pits, just lots of small mounds). This will only affect the upper plough soil where the likelihood of disturbing potential archaeological deposits is low. Leave the 'likely location of the chapel' unplanted but plant surrounding area.

Also another site on the East of the site (identified as site 6) "small building with attached enclosures, one of which may be a garden or orchard, at NX 8496 6044" Again this is to be avoided during planting and operations.

5.1.10 PAWS restoration

There is no plantation on ancient woodland sites and as such this is not applicable. There are no records of woodland on the Ancient Woodland Maps. However there is potential for significant native woodland enhancement on the site and this was covered in more detail earlier in the plan text.

5.1.11 Operational considerations

It is likely that FCS will outsource the planting and initial establishment from a single forestry contractor and this will be awarded through open and fair competition.

During operations some parts of the site will be closed off to public access for Health and Safety reasons.

Selection of appropriate ground preparation and drainage techniques will be an important part of this project. On the better fields in the North block the preparation type will be limited to minimal disturbance including scarifer, continuous moulder, planting machine. The same technique can be used in the better fields in the South close to Aucheninnes Farm. **Excavator mounding will be limited to the rocky fields** where the other machinery will not be effective – including area behind Crinan Cottage and also the enrichment areas. **Ploughs are not permitted on site.**

All operations on the site must comply with "Forest and Water Guidelines"

5.1.12 Critical success factors

Main critical success factors for plan development are:

- ***Setting and implementation of the conservation grazing***
- ***Funding for the woodland expansion***
- ***Maintenance and tending of the high demanding and potentially sensitive productive broadleaved species.***
- ***Successful deer fencing to protect the trees.***

Appendix 1 Design Plan Brief

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Brief Description of the receptor / factor	Description of Potential effect.	Description of Residual effect following mitigation
<p>Solar Panels are located at Cherrytree. Because the panels are facing South and the proposed planting is in the West then impact on efficiency will be minimal. When the sun is in the west the angle of contact is oblique and sun is less strong and therefore generating much less electricity at that time of the day. Winter sun may be an issue in the South and high forest trees will be avoided at this point.</p>	<p>If trees were planted upto the boundary of the house there may be a significant impact on the efficiency of the panels – but this is not being proposed. If planted very close leaf litter would be a problem.</p>	<p>Minimal impact on the solar panels by setting planting line of trees well back from the property. As broadleaves are being proposed this offers a lighter foliage in the winter as there will be no leafs on the trees.</p>
<p>There are 3 properties on the boundary of the proposal site and planting trees on the site has the potential to affect the setting and the light availability to the properties – particularly in the winter afternoons and the summer evenings given the location of the houses on the East edge of the site.</p>	<p>If conifer trees were planted right up to the boundary the trees would shade the afternoon/evening sun. The setting would be negatively affected with a feeling of being enclosed and surrounded.</p>	<p>FCS has consulted all of the properties in question and the proposal is to restrict planting of normal height trees to one to two tree length from the boundary. Where there are specific issues relating to topography rising beside the house a greater distance is included in the design. Short shrubs is also used as mitigation in these areas. Conifer species are avoided and only broadleaves are being proposed as they</p>

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		offer a lighter foliage and leafs are absent in winter when the sun is low in the west in the afternoon.
The is a private water supply for Cherry tree leading from the land at Aucheninness	If commercial conifer planting was proposed in the area this may increase the evapotranspiration and lead to reduced water supply – a negative impact.	The water quality will be increased and the quantity will not be reduced due to removal of stock and planting of shrub layers. By avoiding commercial tree planting quantity will be maintained. Removal of sheep and farm stock will increase the quality of the water.
Change of Landuse. The majority of the site is changing from agriculture to Forestry.	The area of land being removed from agriculture is small, however it is inevitable that this will have a minor negative effect on agriculture. There will be a positive effect on forestry. The careful management of the priority open habitats and setting of conservation grazing will have a positive effect on the biodiversity value of the site. Enrichment of native woodland species will also be positive.	Whilst there is a slight negative impact on agriculture locally and a positive impact on forestry.
Visual Landscape Change to forestry.	Planting of monoculture conifer would have a negative landscape impact.	This proposal in the LCA area “Coastal Granite Uplands” includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater diversity with complex patterns on lower slopes. • Grading out to scrub and gorse on open land. • Design to reflect the specific site

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		<p>character including visible rocky outcrops.</p> <p>The small scale landscape design is considered along roadsides, near houses and on routes where public access is expected to increase.</p>
Flood risk down stream.	New planting schemes can create faster run off due to the installation of forest drainage and this would be a potential negative impact of the scheme.	The wetland/mire areas will not be drained and indeed they will be further blocked to reduce the speed of run off. In effect they will act as a bigger sponge and this will allow water to flow away more slowly as the water passes slowly through the wetland.
The afforestation has potential to affect the flow of water down through Dalbeattie and this would potentially affect the current hydro and any proposed schemes	If intensive forest drainage were installed on the site and all the wetlands were to be drained then water falling as rain would move quickly from the land and into the burn making peak flow an issue – this would also result in lower flow in the dry period and this would be a problem for the hydro scheme/s.	Blocking the drainage in the wetlands and also ensuring that appropriate buffers are designed between the new woodland and the natural drains and burn – this will ensure that peak flow is not exacerbated and indeed it could be argued that by designing in these mitigation measures that there may actually be a positive effect by slowing the flow and helping to improve the efficiency of the hydro scheme.
Deer Fence (Access and Landscape)	A poorly located deer fence would have a negative impact because it would restrict access and look unsightly.	Install public access gates at those locations most likely to be used by public wishing to cross the fence. Align the fence in the best possible

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		place to reduce visual impact e.g. in lower lying land, behind dykes etc.
Encouraging public access near to public road has the risk of increasing risk of accident.	Potential negative impact if people are pushed out onto a busy piece of public road.	Limit the key public access points for those on foot/bike/horse at Moss road where there will be good visibility. Avoid encouraging public access via Southwick road Dalbeattie because the road is narrow and potentially dangerous. Encourage public access from within the existing Dalbeattie forest.
Planting trees may have an impact on important bird species.	IF ALL area was planted with trees there would be a negative impact on birds but the proposal is only to plant part of the site. IF ALL the existing native woodland/scrub was to be removed and replaced with commercial woodland this would be negative impact to many species – but proposal is to keep existing.	As the open habitats will not be planted the Wader birds in particular will continue to benefit from use of the wetland/mire habitats and these will all be kept open and indeed a buffer in many places. >99% of the existing native woodland and scrub (and gorse) will be retained on the site as habitat and feeding area. Overall the design will have a positive/neutral impact on birds.
Red squirrels are present in this area and forest design will be important to help protect the species.	Removal of all native woodland and planting with Sitka Spruce may have a negative impact.	Planting of Scots Pine will have a positive impact on the red squirrel. We are conscious that we are introducing additional large seeded broadleaves that are favourable to Greys but given there is already many

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		large seeded broadleaves existing in this area there is no point in making a Red Squirrel reserve free of large seeded broadleaves.
There is risk of damage to important archaeology including the site of the old catholic chapel.	<p>If archaeology was disregarded the features would be lost due to damage by machines and also lost in the new woodland by tree cover.</p> <p>If deep excavations were used near to the potential chapel then potential negative impact if the foundations of the chapel were discovered.</p>	<p>Identify, mark and protect the features and keep free from trees.</p> <p>Removal of farm stock will make access easier for visitors.</p> <p>Shallow ground prep will remove any risk of damage to the foundations of the chapel – this area has already been intensively ploughed with agricultural ploughs to a depth of approx 30cm</p>
Timber Transport	Poor design could create problems for the community.	2 x new entrances are being proposed onto the agreed timber transport road at Aucheninnes B793.
Planting trees near to the wetland mire may impact on the amount of water going into the mire. The amount of water available for the mire area is certainly dependent on some run-off from surrounding slopes, but probably more dependent on rainfall falling onto the mire and the blocking of drains in the mire.	Planting conifer trees near to the wetland mire may reduce the total volume of water reaching the mire due to evapo-transpiration caused by the dense conifer foliage.	<p>The mitigation in the design includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocking of existing drains in the mire to reduce water escape. • Avoid planting conifer trees immediately adjacent (20m) to the mire and limit planting to Mixed broadleaves and open space in the buffer. • Utilise the land immediately beside the wetlands as access area for grazier / quad
During consultation reference was		The proposals will not include planting on the

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made to the Bogrush cricket in nearby Aucheninnes Moss.		open bog habitat and so will not affect.

Appendix II Forest Design Plan Consultation Record

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Public meeting Dalbeattie 27 May 1500 to 1900 hrs at Dalbeattie Town hall	Posters at entrances 1/4/14	On the night and also by e-mail and questionnaire	<p>Approx 50 people attended many of whom were neighbours and almost all were local. This was a positive meeting generally with most very positive about the woodland expansion. The feedback and comments included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People would like access for walking and horse riding. • We should protect the Archaeology. Concern was raised about the old chapel and this is being investigated further during the design stage. • Supportive of the proposed conservation grazing and the protection of the bog. • The fencing plans were discussed and all thought that deer fencing would be fine provided we install gates. Not styles as dogs can not use styles. • The potential operational access was discussed and options were considered. Access via Tinkers loaning was favourable. • There was a concern that the woodland would affect existing and proposed hydro schemes and it was explained that the design should benefit the efficiency of hydro through reducing the peak flow. • Reference was made to the Bogrush cricket in nearby Aucheninnes Moss. The proposals will not include planting on the open bog habitat and so will not affect. • A couple of people asked why the good fields were bring planted. We explained FCS policy to avoid arable land and the fact this was mixed agric land and was also a WIAT wood and community would benefit. • There was much interest in Links from Barr hill but there was no option as no bridge 	

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			<p>was in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few asked for formal recreation facilities and we explained that we already had facilities in DBT. The new land was open to all under SOAC and indeed the removal of farm animals would make access easier. • There was some concern raised about the lack of productive spruce species and indeed the large area of bog habitat that had little productive value. FCS explained the opportunity the site gave in terms of growing conditions (soils and climate) for hardwoods and alternative conifers e.g. DF. Also the wider social, environmental and tourism development and business development opportunities arising from such a varied site. • At least two groups/individuals wanted Scots Pine on the rocky ridges rather than conservation grazing and this will be explored during the design. • Two or three of the immediate neighbours attended and FCS explained that we would have one to one discussions over the duration of the design phase to make sure we understood and took on board their views where possible. These discussions started at the event and in most cases these will continue over the summer. • Access via Southwick road on foot is dangerous and not encouraged. We advised access via existing Dalbeattie forest. • The conservation grazing was supported and the limitations of access because of farm animals did not seem to raise any problems • Planting of large seeded oak was potentially a problem in that it would be a more suitable habitat for Grey Squirrels and this will need to be explored with SNH during the design. 	
http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/communication-consultation/forest-design-plan-consultations/aucheninnes	This web page has been published and available since 1/4/14	Ongoing	The web page has the forest design brief and the analysis and concept map	
James Hammond Deer Officer SNH	9/4/14	10/4/14	Response from Anton Watson SNH. At this time I assume FCS are using current deer management protocol and therefore have no further comments.	Noted.

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<p>Scottish Natural Heritage. Jonathan Hudson</p>	<p>9/4/14</p>	<p>30/6/14</p>	<p>Written response including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNH supports forest proposals on the whole and offer some advice • Potential to expand native woodland sites adjoining to existing Dalbeattie Forest. • Propose introduce LISS • Consider Otter • Consider bats • Consider red squirrels • Consider badgers • Welcomes increase in informal access and recommends making access available for disabled people or wheelchair users. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Significant native woodland in the proposal.</p> <p>Noted and planned in the design</p> <p>Noted – will survey</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted – planting of SP considered during planning</p> <p>Noted and badger gates will be installed in deer fence</p> <p>Noted but there are no formal new facilities planned. The land will be open as per SOAC</p>
<p>Jo Mercer D&G Council Access Officer</p>	<p>9/4/14</p>		<p>No Comment</p>	
<p>Graeme Alison Roads Department Council</p>	<p>9/4/14</p>	<p>10/4/14</p>	<p>Response form Keith Brown, Castle Douglas Office. B736 is consultation route and should agree timber traffic regime</p>	<p>All future timber will be extracted to B793 which is an agreed route. 2 x new entrances to be completed in 2016.</p>

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Adrian Pringle, Regional Landscape Architect	9/4/14 April 2015.		No Comment Supportive of plan and suggested access circular routes.	Noted and have included circular routes on the final design. Albeit these will be informal access and not waymarked routes.
Dumfries and Galloway Council Biodiversity Officer Peter Norman.	9/4/14	7/5/14	My comments above concur with the information outlined in the Draft Design Brief. Therefore, I am happy to support the principles of the Draft Design Brief and consider that appropriate grazing of the wetland areas, combined with planting of native broadleaves on the improved fields will lead to an overall net enhancement of the biodiversity of the site. It is possible that a belt of native woodland between the areas of wetland on the site and other nearby areas at Aucheninnes Moss will restrict species movement between sites, but given that the sites are already separated by improved grassland it may be that this is already a barrier, and on balance I consider that the positive benefits of native woodland outweigh any possible barrier effect. My only other concern is that the planting is kept far enough away from wetlands to prevent hydrological implications. This may mean not planting the hummocks at all, or only with occasional individual	Noted.

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	April 2015		<p>trees, and providing a buffer for planting on the improved fields. The attached map is indicative of the areas I consider suitable for closed canopy woodland planting without impacting on the wetland areas.</p> <p>I did not visit the land north of Aucheninnes Farm, but observation from the road suggests a reduced habitat diversity and I therefore have no objections to the proposals in the Draft Design Brief for this area.</p> <p>April 2015 – supportive of final design.</p>	
D&G Council, Andrew Nicholson or Jane Brann, Archaeology	9/4/14 April 2015	10/4/14	<p>Andrew noted two features one being a former farmstead and the second being a potential catholic chapel.</p> <p>Supportive – queried shallow ploughing by chapel.</p>	<p>Further investigation and field checking will be done and reported back to Council. Design will be to Historic env guidelines and this includes a 20m buffer.</p> <p>Explained that this would reduce risk of disturbing any chapel remains</p>
Chris Rollie, RSPB	9/4/14		No Comment	
David McNay, SEPA Response by Nicki Dunn	9/4/14	23/4/14	Nothing specific. Comply with UKWAS. Refer to SEPA water body data.	
Red Squirrels Scotland Karen Ramoo	9/4/14		No Comment	
Alasdair Hendry, Forestry Commission	9/4/14		No Comment	

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Scotland				
Jaime Ribbons Galloway Fisheries Trust	9/4/14		No Comment	
John Malcolm Historic Scotland	9/4/14	22/4/14	I can confirm that none of the assets listed above lie within the area proposed for woodland expansion, and we do not presently propose to designate any such assets within or immediately adjacent to the outlined site.	Noted.
	April 2015		No further comments	
Quinten Donald. RPID.	9/4/14		No comment	
Colvend and Southwick Community Council	9/4/14		No Comment	
Kirkgunzeon Community Council	9/4/14		No Comment	
	9/4/14	10/14/14	Meeting with George and Val Wallace 9/5/14 to walk site and consider issues on the woodland expansion site. The DFP was largely supportive of the woodland expansion. George was keen to develop a public access link between dead end road at Tinkers loaning leading through the new site and linking back into existing Dalbeattie Forest further North. FCS explained that there is no funding available for new recreation facilities as the existing budget is already stretched. Although if community wanted to provide funding or involvement this can be considered. Informal public access will be encouraged and managed through the SOAC. Fencing was considered. Stock fences for the conservation grazing would restrict public access but gates and styles can be installed. Deer fencing would be desirable for establishment and again this could restrict public access if not fully considered and planned. George would liked an idea of a new pavement linking Southwick road to the site and this can be considered during consultation an funding me be sought through other avenues but would not be available from FCS. Discussion about operational access requirements for felling and establishment and there is a	
Dalbeattie Forest Partnership				

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			<p>need to create a new entrance in both the North and South blocks. It was agreed that new access would be useful for access too.</p> <p>DFP requested that an Arboretum was included in the new woodland near to Southwick road.</p> <p>FCS stated that we are committed to a diverse mixture of trees and this is something that will be considered during consultation and design of the plan.</p>	
Erica Johnson Dalbeattie CC	9/4/14		No Comment	
Immediate neighbours adjacent to the woodland creation area	October and Nov 2014		Ongoing liaison with neighbours including discussion on light, private water supplies and access to and from the new forest	
Written to Neighbouring farmers and Quintin Donald RPID	25/11/14		<p>Comment from RPID.</p> <p>Local farming context: The area to be planted is the better quality agricultural land which is the drier and more productive mineral soils. The area proposed for "conservation grazing" is the lower lying wetland mosaics interspersed with whin dominated rocky out-crops. The loss of the better quality agricultural land will not impact significantly on the pattern of agriculture in the immediate area</p> <p>District farming context: The site is more or less surrounded by existing forestry and a large landfill site on the East. All of the agricultural land is designated Less Favoured Area (LFA) and utilised for livestock production, mainly beef and sheep. The proposals are unlikely</p>	Noted.

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			<p>to impact on the pattern of agriculture in the District context.</p> <p>Regional farming context: Land on a wider context is mainly used for livestock production with some arable production on the better low-lying ground. The better quality land supports fairly intensive agricultural systems including some large sheep flocks and large beef cow and dairy herds. The proposals are unlikely to impact on the pattern of agriculture in the Regional context.</p> <p>Whilst the existing site offers a good mix between improved and unimproved ground for agricultural purposes, the conversion of the better ground to forestry will leave a challenge to farming the poorer portion that is left. The remaining ground will be a good wildlife habitat which has the potential to be enhanced by careful grazing management if a suitable grazier can be found locally.</p>	
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