

Stirling & Clackmannanshire Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Appendix I - Summary of Consultation Responses

Respondent	Comment	Response
Stirling Council Archaeology Officer	Designated battlefields identified as having potential for woodland expansion. However, no mention made of using expansion to improve understanding, access and interpretation	Appropriate comments included in the Strategy
Historic Scotland	Consider 'Inventory Battlefields' should be included as a 'sensitive area' as new woodland or forestry proposals have potential to impact on both archaeological and landscape components	The strategy has been amended to include 'Inventory Battlefields' as sensitive areas
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Recommend various modifications to enhance the environmental benefits of the strategy, particularly to restore the water environment to help achieve sustainable flood management through future planting	Appropriate comments included in the Strategy
Scottish Natural Heritage	<p>1. Need to demonstrate the relationship with strategies of neighbouring authorities and National Park</p> <p>2. Geodiversity is not addressed. Geological Conservation Review sites may be sensitive to forestry.</p> <p>3. The importance of tree establishment in water catchments in helping to mitigate the effects of flood and soil erosion.</p> <p>4. The Strategy should recognise opportunities and benefits associated with the establishment of suitable new native woodlands in uplands.</p>	<p>1. Referenced in Strategy</p> <p>2. Referenced in Strategy</p> <p>3. Appropriate comments included in the Strategy</p> <p>4. Appropriate comments included in the Strategy</p>
Scottish Water	Request 'Drinking Water Protected Areas' be included as a 'sensitive' area.	The Strategy Working Group agreed Forestry Commission Scotland should take this issue up at national level to ensure consistent approach is taken in other strategies regarding woodland planting status of Drinking Water Supply areas. In the interim no change made to the Strategy
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	1. Maps are difficult to use.	<p>1. GIS mapping will be available through the Online Local Development Plan version which will allow more detailed interrogation.</p> <p>2. Noted. While linked</p>

	<p>2. Though linked with the Central Scotland Green Network, the Strategy should be viewed as a stand alone policy .</p> <p>3. References to other documents should be expanded.</p> <p>4. In relation to multiple benefits not all woodlands necessarily provide suitable habitats for wildlife.</p> <p>5. With regard to flood management planting in the middle and upper water catchments can be beneficial</p>	<p>to the multiple benefit aspiration of the CSGN the strategy also functions as a stand alone document</p> <p>3. Considered sufficient information provided, (e.g. references and web links) regarding supporting documents.</p> <p>4. Acknowledged that new woodlands not always optimal for wildlife, but even with softwood forests the strategy advises: - 'Modern softwood forests have substantial areas of open space, areas of native species and a growing emphasis on the use of mixed species and different silvicultural systems (where feasible) to increase diversity and resilience in the face of climate change.'</p> <p>5. Appropriate comments included in the Strategy</p>
<p>Friends of the Ochils</p>	<p>1. The Strategy should set out clear principles for the protection and enhancement of the highly valued landscape and heritage of the Ochil Hills. To improve landscape quality: - i) new high-density conifer plantations should be rejected and existing ones not replaced; ii) new planting should not affect views and accessibility; and planting on historic sites or their setting should be avoided, notably Sheriffmuir Battlefield, and anywhere on Dumyat or Menstrie Glen; and iii) declining mature trees should be replaced, e.g. along roadsides and field boundaries. The Strategy fails to recognise and needs to address the inherent environmental and commercial conflicts that exist in relation to the existence and expansion of woodland and forestry. The Councils' positions should also be set out.</p>	<p>1. The Strategy incorporates strategic guidance for woodland planting, supported by small scale mapping, based on the methodologies detailed in the Strategy. It was not intended to set out woodland planting potential in specific geographical areas, such as the Ochils, Campsies, Carse of Stirling, etc. It is considered sufficient safeguards are in place to ensure new woodland planting supports the various key themes identified in the Strategy, e.g. Key</p>

		<p>Theme Three :- Business Development and Key Theme Six Environmental Quality. Further to this the Strategy specifically states:- “Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) manages the national forest estate and is also the Scottish Government’s regulatory body for forestry. FCS assesses potential forestry projects for their environmental impact, approves and monitors publicly funded woodland proposals and ensures compliance with local and national policies and best practice guidelines. FCS also maintains a Register of New Planting and Felling, Register of Environmental Impact Assessments and Registers of Woodland Creation which provide information on key forestry proposals. Forestry activities such as planting and felling are not normally subject to planning controls. Local Authorities are however consulted by FCS on a range of planting and felling proposals and longer term forest plans and therefore can influence where future woodland expansion should occur and the development of the forest industry within their areas. Where appropriate the Strategy will inform the responses from Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils to such consultations. “</p>
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	<p>2. Mapping is small scale and inadequate and needs to be improved</p> <p>3. Clear and detailed information about the Ochil Hills Woodland Park and the North Stirling Forest / Woodland Park needs to be provided and widely consulted on. The Strategy should not be adopted until there is further consultation and all these issues are addressed.</p>	<p>The issue of replacing declining roadside trees is outwith the remit of the Strategy.</p> <p>In light of this there is considered to be sufficient regulatory control (that includes public consultation) and policy guidance to allow the detailed assessment of the environmental impacts of new woodland planting proposals.</p> <p>2. Mapping will be available through the Online Local Development Plan which will allow more detailed interrogation.</p> <p>3. The Ochil Hills Woodland Park is an established area of woodland owned and managed by Clackmannanshire Council. The North Stirling Woodland Park is not mentioned in the Strategy. Proposed Stirling LDP Supplementary Guidance SG02 Green Network identifies this as one of 14 site specific projects identified to enhance the Green Network, having the objective of enhancing management of woodlands for access and recreation; woodland planting; increased habitat connectivity. This project is still at a formative stage and is intended to be funded largely by developer contributions, based on development</p>
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		allocations in the proposed Stirling Local Development Plan
Public responses (from Logie and Sheriffmuir)	<p>Significant existing forestry, proposed planting (particularly commercial tree species) and the Strategy itself will have negative impacts on the landscape quality and recreational resource of the Ochils, Sheriffmuir and Menstrie Glen. Taken together these proposals would dramatically change landscape character. The strategy looks to maximise forestry potential and fails to give sufficient importance to other significant issues. A 'balance' is not achieved and forestry will dominate if all or most of the potential projects proceed. Issues relevant to the Ochils and not given appropriate priority include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - i) designation as Area of Great Landscape Value/Local Landscape Area, ii) long distance views, iii) recreational value, iv) Inventory Battlefield at Sheriffmuir, and v) archaeological importance of Menstrie Glen. Other issues include inadequate small-scale mapping, no identification of potential sites, inconsistencies with sensitivity designations, inconsistencies with proposals for a North Stirling Woodland Park which proposes less planting for Menstrie Glen 	These matters are addressed in the above response to the Friends of the Ochils.

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Appendix II - Additional Policy Documents

Central Scotland Green Network Working Plan
Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan 2002
Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan Progress Report
Clackmannanshire Community Plan (Working together for Clackmannanshire)
Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan(web based)
Clackmannanshire Economic Development Framework 2008-2018 and Action Plan
Clackmannanshire Green Infrastructure Mapping
Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan Main Issues Report
Clackmannanshire Local Development Plan Open Space Framework
Clackmannanshire Local Plan (web based document)
Clackmannanshire Local Transport Strategy
Clackmannanshire Single Outcome Agreement
Clackmannanshire Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy
Cowal & Trossachs Forest District Strategic Plan 2009-2013
Flood Risk Management Strategy and Local Flood Risk Management Plans
Forth Area Management Plan
Gartmorn Dam Green Hub
Greening Clackmannanshire
Local Biodiversity Action Plans
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Local Woodland and Forestry Framework
National Planning Framework NPF2 2009
Scotland's Land Use Strategy
Scottish Lowlands Forest District Strategic Plan 2009-2013
Scottish Planning Policy
Stirling Community Plan
Stirling Core Paths Plan (web based)
Stirling Council Access Strategy 1999
Stirling Economic Development Strategy
Stirling Green Infrastructure: Green Network and Open Space
Stirling Local Development Plan

Stirling Local Development Plan Main Issues Report

Stirling Local Plan

Stirling Local Transport Strategy

Stirling Open Space Strategy

Stirling Single Outcome Agreement

Tay Forest District Strategic Plans 2009-2013

The Right Tree in the Right Place

The Scottish Government's Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal

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Appendix III - Regulatory Processes

Introduction

As highlighted in **Section 4: Opportunities for Woodland Expansion**, a range of regulatory, approval, assessment and monitoring processes would require to be followed before any woodland creation or expansion could be considered. The main regulatory and operational processes described below would be applied to any woodland proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the Stirling & Clackmannanshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy, in order to ensure that any woodland and forestry creation/expansion and forest management operations would protect internationally, nationally and, where appropriate, locally important habitats, species and landscapes, and support the businesses and workforce undertaking them.

The UK Forestry Standard

The Stirling & Clackmannanshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy falls within the scope of the Scottish Government's [Scottish Forestry Strategy](#). The Strategy's overarching principles are sustainable development underpinned by sustainable forest management and social inclusion.

In the UK, the requirements of sustainable forest management are set out in the [UK Forestry Standard](#) and it is a pre-requisite of any forestry proposals seeking public funding that these requirements are met. All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the SCFWS would therefore be expected to follow the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard and that contained within the operational and management guidelines covering Biodiversity, Climate Change, Historic Environment, Landscape, People, Soils and Water to which it refers.

The UK Woodland Assurance Standard

The [UK Woodland Assurance Standard](#) is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the UK. Whilst a voluntary mechanism it is now the central component of forest certification programmes operated by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and The Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification Programmes (PEFC). All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the SCFWS would be encouraged to meet the verification requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

Environmental Impact Assessments

Specifically in relation to environmental protection, the UK's forestry [grants and licenses](#) system and the [Environmental Impact Assessment \(Forestry\)](#)

(Scotland) Regulations 1999, as amended, require that where a proposed forestry project is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, be over a specific area threshold or within a sensitive area (e.g. those SSSIs, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Natura 2000 sites and other statutory designations shown on **Map 4: Natural Heritage Designations** and **Map 5. Historic Environment Designations**, an [Environmental Impact Assessment](#) [EIA] be carried out to determine whether consent for the project can be granted.

In Scotland, responsibility for administering the forestry grants and licences system and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, as amended, falls upon Forestry Commission Scotland, with input from Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Historic Scotland as statutory consultees. All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the SCFWS and which met the criteria of an EIA determination, would therefore be required to undergo an assessment under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, as amended.

Habitat Regulations Appraisal

Furthermore, in relation to the protection of European (Natura) Sites and European Protected species, the [Habitats Regulations](#) require competent authorities to undertake an appropriate Habitats Regulation Appraisal [HRA] in certain circumstances where plans and projects may affect Natura sites. In Scotland, a competent authority is any Body that has the power to undertake or give consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project and could include Local Authorities, Forestry Commission Scotland or the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. The competent authority, with advice from Scottish Natural Heritage, decides whether appropriate assessment is necessary and carries it out if required.

All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the SCFWS and which met the criteria of an HRA determination, may therefore be required to undergo an appropriate assessment under the Habitat Regulations.

The Right Tree in the Right Place; Planning for Forestry and Woodlands

This guidance issued by Forestry Commission Scotland provides advice to planning authorities on planning for woodlands and forestry. Setting out the current policy context for forestry and woodlands in Scotland, the Right Tree in the Right Place also provides detailed advice on the different roles that forestry and woodlands can play, the multiple benefits they can deliver when well planned and managed and the consideration that should be given in development management decisions.

All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the SCFWS would be expected to follow the guidance set out in the Right Tree in the Right Place and that contained within the specific operational management guidelines to which it refers (e.g. Forest Design Planning, Scotland's Woodlands and the

Historic Environment, Forests & Water Guidelines and Forests & Soils Guidelines).

Other Legal Controls that apply to felling

Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

TPOs are made by the local planning authority, usually a local council, to protect specific trees and woodland from deliberate damage and destruction. TPO's prevent the felling, topping, lopping or uprooting of trees without permission from the planning authority.

Felling Licence Application relating to trees protected by TPO

If you apply to fell trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order, Forestry Commission Scotland will inform you that the application has been sent to the Local Authority with comments. The planning authority will decide whether to grant the necessary permission.

Conservation Areas

The applicant must give the Local Authority 6 weeks notice in writing, along with a map detailing the area, before starting work to cut down, top, lop or uproot a tree in a conservation area.

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Appendix IV - Strategic Themes, Objectives and Outcomes

Introduction

This appendix sets out the key strategic themes, policy objectives and outcomes that are the basis for the SCFWS and how they support the development, expansion and management of forestry and woodlands across the area.

KEY THEME ONE: CLIMATE CHANGE

Help Stirling & Clackmannanshire reduce the impact of climate change and better equip the locality to be able to adapt to its changing climate.

Why

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the world today. It also creates great uncertainty and future generations will need flexibility in terms of the type, extent and management of forestry and woodlands

Forestry makes a contribution to reducing atmospheric CO₂ by carbon uptake in growing biomass, vegetation and soils and when substituting fossil fuels for biomass and timber and wood products for more energy intensive construction materials; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 2 & 8 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 3 & 5

Using wood for fuel (see www.usewoodfuel.co.uk) can provide local, sustainable energy and employment as well as reducing timber haulage distances; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcomes 1 & 8 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 5

What Needs to be done

Consultation Comments

"Prioritise mixed, high wildlife value woodland"

"Encourage productive woodland creation"

"Incorporate local timber into the built environment"

"Provide more information to the general public about benefits of forestry to climate change"

Increasing awareness of the forestry sector's contribution

Raise awareness of the potential impacts of climate change and of what actions forestry can take to assist, particularly through the promotion of good practice guidelines and by linking with the Forest Education Initiative

Consider climate change implications in deforestation decisions

Facilitate projects which reduce the impacts of timber transport

Adapting to climate change

Encourage appropriate woodland expansion in Stirling & Clackmannanshire using a range of tree species and woodland types; particularly where this will extend existing integrated habitat networks

Increase the role of forestry in environmental protection including sustainable flood and catchment management and soil protection

Mitigating climate change

Increase biomass usage by supporting its use for renewable energy and facilitating the continued development of an efficient and reliable biomass supply chain

Promote increased use of sustainably produced timber and timber products in construction

Encourage increased use of timber and timber products through council's sustainable procurement policy

Increasing the amount of carbon locked up

Support an increase in appropriate new woodland to help achieve the Climate Change Programme targets

Realise the benefits of carbon sequestration through promotion of the [Woodland Carbon Code](#)

Follow sustainable forest management principles and guidelines to protect carbon rich soils from potentially damaging activities

Increase long-term carbon retention in woodlands through promoting low impact silvicultural systems and woodland regeneration and by providing guidance of minimising carbon losses during forest operations

KEY THEME TWO: TIMBER

Maximise the benefits of Stirling & Clackmannanshire's increasing and sustainable timber resource

Why

Timber is an environmentally friendly, versatile and cost-effective building material. It is renewable and has a very small carbon footprint; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 8 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 5.

Timber is the primary source of direct revenue for many woodland owners and their main motivation for multi-purpose woodland management

Some areas of harvesting and replanting have become uneconomic. This represents a threat to forest restructuring and the environmental, employment and downstream economic benefits that go with it

Forestry can bring much needed economic activity and employment particularly through local, added-value wood processing and marketing; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 1 and Stirling's Strategic Priorities 1 & 2

What Needs to be done

Consultation Comments

“Support whole of wood supply chain”

“Encourage greater emphasis on woods to generate income, especially from timber”

“Encourage use of local timber in recreational facilities”

“Manage timber haulage sensitively”

“Focus management of quality broadleaves on south facing slopes of Ochils”

Promoting predictable and stable timber supplies

Sustain consistent long-term timber supplies through planting of new productive forest areas

Contribute to development of long-term forest plans and production forecasts

Promote collaboration and competitiveness in sector development through mechanisms like the Scottish Forest & Timber Technologies Group and social enterprise networks

Promote the use of timber

Continue to raise awareness of the potential of wood as a versatile and sustainable raw material through procurement and construction guidance and specific case studies

Encourage the development of local timber markets, particularly markets based on local timber and biomass

Identify suitable sites for smaller timber processing developments

Increase timber supply chain efficiency

Continue to develop the timber transport infrastructure through mechanisms such as the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme and through partnerships such as the Timber Transport Forum and Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group

Monitor timber movements against Agreed Routes to ensure consultation routes carrying higher volumes of timber are suitably maintained

Develop the hardwood timber sector

Promote silvicultural practices, supply chain development and markets to grow the hardwood timber sector in Stirling & Clackmannanshire

KEY THEME THREE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Support business development and strengthen the forest industry and its contribution to local economic growth and employment

Why

Forestry has the potential to bring economic activity and employment to Stirling & Clackmannanshire; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 1 and Stirling's Strategic Topics 1 & 2

Securing the economic viability of forestry underpins sustainable forest management and the delivery of public benefits from woodlands to residents and visitors to Stirling & Clackmannanshire

Diversifying income sources from the provision of forest goods and services brings economic benefits to the wider rural economy; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 1 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 1

Woodlands form an important backdrop to the tourism industry; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 1 and Stirling's Strategic Topics 1 & 2

Workforce development enhances business competitiveness and productivity; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcomes 1 & 3 and Stirling's Strategic Topics 1 & 2

What Needs to be Done

Consultation Comments

“Encourage integrated land-management with retail opportunities”

“Utilise woodland more for community education and development”

“Investigate the potential of developing the archaeological and heritage resource in woodlands for low impact business”

“Support joint partnerships with other agencies”

Realising economic potential

Ensure the availability of co-ordinated business development support and advice that is specific to the sector

Promote local co-operation and social enterprise networks to secure new markets and increase the business potential of woodland related activity, including sustainable non-timber forest products and services

Raise the profile of the contribution of forestry to sustainable development

Increase knowledge and awareness of the contribution woodlands can make to the economic regeneration of industrial areas and through creation of green infrastructures

Contributing to rural diversification

Encourage appropriate woodland expansion and management that supports local businesses and provides opportunities for farm diversification

Promote a joined up approach to land management, identifying economic opportunities from more integrated approaches to land-use

Identify opportunities for forestry to provide green jobs

Explore the increasing potential of local biomass markets to move cost-effective processing closer to the rural timber resource

Encourage growth of community businesses and social enterprises through the sale or community management of National Forest Estate or Local Authority land, where this is in the public interest

Tourism

Develop the awareness of, and potential for, sustainable forest-based tourism

Explore ways in which woodland owners can capture direct revenue from tourism

Skills

Support the development of flexible modern rural apprenticeships and programmes such as the National Progression Awards and Scottish Trees and Timber Modern Apprenticeship

Work with Lantra Sector Skills Council and the forest industry to develop work experience opportunities for secondary school pupils and encourage the delivery of a land-based vocational curriculum

Encourage recruitment into the sector by promoting forestry careers and exploring how to make jobs attractive, multi-skilled and offering development potential

KEY THEME FOUR: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Improve the quality of life and well-being of local residents and visitors to Stirling & Clackmannanshire by supporting community development and encourage an increased community involvement in forestry and woodland initiatives

Why

Well designed, well managed woodlands can transform degraded surroundings and brownfield sites into community assets by 'greening and screening', improving environmental quality, increasing attractiveness to inward investment, and providing a landscape framework for new development; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcomes 1 & 8 and Stirling's Strategic Topics 1 & 5

Woodlands and trees, and their local and historic associations, contribute to providing a strong sense of place and cultural identity

Woodlands and associated environmental improvements can provide a focus for people to take part in the decisions that shape their lives by providing an 'entry point' for building community cohesion and by increasing the capacity of people to become 'active citizens'; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 2 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 2

Woods and associated land can provide opportunities and places for development of community and small business enterprises, and can be a vehicle to develop employability, self-esteem and transferable skills; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcomes 1, 2 & 3 and Stirling's Strategic Topics 1, 2 & 3

Education and lifelong learning are essential parts of sustainable development and woodlands are excellent 'outdoor classrooms' in which to promote environmental awareness and develop positive attitudes to learning among excluded groups; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcomes 2 & 3 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 3

People who know more about forestry and its cultural setting are more likely to support it and take better care of Stirling & Clackmannanshire's woodlands and wider environment

What Needs to be Done

Consultation Comments

"Promote woodlands as a shared community resource"
"Encourage promotion of forestry at local tourist information centres"
"Survey people to find out what would make them volunteer"
"Don't just tidy up woodlands; educate people in the ecological value of wild areas"

Contributing to quality of life

Building on the successful Woods In and Around Towns and similar initiatives, provide welcoming and well managed woodlands, in and around communities in Stirling & Clackmannanshire, that contribute to quality of life and provide opportunities for exercise, learning, enterprise, relaxation and enjoyment

Highlight the use, value and benefits of trees, woodlands and landscapes to planners and developers, and encourage the use of planning processes to secure new community woodland

Encourage the provision of sites for community facilities, ownership and management

Education and lifelong learning

Encourage the education sector to make greater use of woodlands for outdoor learning through initiatives such as Forest Schools

Increase forestry's engagement in the secondary as well as the primary school sector by promoting vocational qualifications through the school's curriculum and by using woodlands to help pupils with special learning needs

Increase recognition of the forestry sector's potential to provide transferable skills through forestry related vocational and non-vocational qualifications

Continue to encourage forestry-based 'return-to-work' and volunteering projects

Help communities develop their local identity through the cultural setting and historic environment in woodlands and through living culture, including the performing arts

Use woodland to demonstrate forestry's exemplar role in sustainable development, tackling climate change and conservation of biodiversity

Highlight benefits of sustainable forest management to habitats, species, landscapes and the wider environment

Enhancing engagement with communities

Mainstream community engagement in forestry through training programmes, CPD and volunteering initiatives

Maintain constructive involvement with community organisations and those representing small, forestry-related businesses

Encourage entrepreneurial uses of timber, non-timber forest products and other woodland outputs for local business and employment opportunities

Promote training and capacity building among community volunteers in forestry skills and organisational management

Encouraging community ownership and management

Increase opportunities for, and help support, community participation in forest ownership and management through mechanisms such as the [National Forest Land Scheme](#), Community Right to Buy and grant support

Promote need for appropriate planning as a means of recognising the value of and protecting and enhancing habitats, species, landscapes and the wider environment

Encourage and support the implementation of sustainable forest management practices.

KEY THEME FIVE: ACCESS & HEALTH

Encourage responsible access to and enjoyment of forests and woodlands across Stirling & Clackmannanshire and help improve physical and mental health of residents.

Why

Woodlands are a naturally therapeutic environment, have a positive effect on anxiety and depression by reducing stress and mental fatigue, are an excellent setting to help people with behavioural and mental health problems and can encourage inactive people to participate in moderate activity; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 7 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 4

Children who visit, or use, woodlands continue to do so as adults

Enhancing access provides opportunities for countryside sports, education, lifelong learning, job opportunities and income generation. It also has a key role in supporting the tourism sector and rural development; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcomes 1 & 3 and Stirling's Strategic Topics 1, 2 & 3

Forests and the wider woodland environment can provide a sense of wonder and enjoyment for all. The historic environment and cultural setting of woodlands helps create a link between people and the past, ancient trees and woodlands capture public imagination, and biodiversity and geodiversity can help stimulate interest in environmental matters

Recreational use of woodlands can create new business opportunities and income for woodland owners; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 1 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 1

What Needs to be Done

Consultation Comments

“Increase awareness that access to countryside is for everyone”

“Work with local groups like CRAG to ensure that various routes and access paths are available to all people and users”

“Don’t artificially enhance forestry just to encourage people to visit them”

“Develop clearly marked walking routes”

“Encourage outdoor tourism businesses such as mountain biking and Go-Ape”

Making access easier

Target appropriate woodland creation and woodland access improvements in areas where health and community need is greatest and current provision is weak

Promote confidence in woodlands as a safe and welcoming environment, particularly in and around towns, through active woodland management, provision of recreational facilities and ranger presence

Ensure responsible woodland access is supported and promoted by relevant stakeholders

Maintain Core Paths through woodlands and take them into account in forest design and management

Encourage co-operative approach by all stakeholders to the promotion and negotiation of responsible access

Helping to improve Stirling & Clackmannanshire’s health

Continue to raise awareness of the role of forests and the woodland environment in providing cost-effective health benefits

Working with relevant health professionals, continue to expand the impact of the Forestry Commission’s Woods for Health campaign by increasing the range and spread of events and raising awareness of the opportunities to take part

Promote wider transport policies by encouraging the use of woodland paths that enable people to walk or cycle as part of their daily travel

Encourage more volunteering activity in woodlands

Enabling people to enjoy forests and the wider woodland environment

Focus support for access and recreation provision to priority situations that maximise delivery of public benefits

Encourage younger audiences by providing more opportunities for natural play in a woodland environment

Improve the setting, management and interpretation of the historic environment in forests and woodlands

Encourage and support better interpretation in forests and woodlands as a route to increased awareness of and protection for vulnerable sites, species and the wider environment

Encourage the sustainable use of woodlands for living heritage, including the performing arts

Encourage joined-up access and recreation provision through expansion of integrated habitat networks and improving connectivity of urban/peri-urban woodlands

KEY THEME SIX: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Contribute to the protection and enhancement of Stirling & Clackmannanshire's water, soil and air resources and the diverse and attractive landscapes and historic environment.

Why

- Good environmental quality is essential for Stirling & Clackmannanshire's economy, public perception and health and biodiversity
- Conserving environmental quality is a fundamental requirement of sustainable forest management.
- Well designed, well managed riparian and flood plain woodlands, together with those in wider water catchment areas, can protect and enhance water quality by reducing the potential for watercourse acidification and soil erosion, by stabilising riverbanks, by providing buffer strips and reducing pollution in run-off and by contributing to the delivery of River Basin Management Plans; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 8 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 5.
- Soils are an important natural resource. They may also contain archaeological structures and artefacts, and evidence of past human activities.
- Good air quality is essential to human health. Trees and woodlands contribute, particularly in urban environments, by trapping harmful dust particles and absorbing gases such as sulphur dioxide and ozone; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 8 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 5.
- Stirling & Clackmannanshire's tourism industry relies heavily on its world-class scenery, geodiversity and diverse historic environment. Degraded and unsightly local environments impact on the quality of people's lives, and reduce inward investment.
- The historic environment is a unique and irreplaceable source of evidence about life in Stirling & Clackmannanshire over thousands of years. It enables present and future generations to better understand and appreciate their place in history. The historic dimension of the landscape also contributes to its quality, character and meaning.
- Many designed landscapes and formal gardens contain rare, non-native trees and shrubs, many of which are now threatened in their native habitats.

What Needs to be Done

Consultation Comments

“Maintain and enhance the beauty of the area; it’s what brings visitors here”

“Improve education on how forests can protect water, soil and air resources”

“More tourist friendly information on woodlands would be helpful in letting people know what is out there”

“Improve preservation of mature native woodland”

Protecting and enhancing water, soil and air resources

- Protect and, where possible, improve Stirling & Clackmannanshire's water and soil resources by following sustainable forest management principles and guidelines in all forestry activities in accordance with the [Forests and Water UK Forestry Standard Guidelines](#)
- Adopt measures which will prevent deterioration and enhance the status of water bodies and riparian woodland throughout Stirling & Clackmannanshire; particularly those identified by the River Basin Management Plan process or where forestry sector pressures have been highlighted as a reason for a downgrade in status.
- Promote the role of forestry, hedgerows and street trees in ameliorating air pollution.

Contributing to Stirling & Clackmannanshire’s landscapes

- Recognise local landscape characteristics and geodiversity, safeguard sensitive landscapes, and harness the potential of forestry to bring landscape improvements through high standards of forest design and operational planning.
- Encourage the restructuring of woodlands to increase structural and species diversity.
- Help improve degraded or unsightly local environments through the provision of well-designed and well-managed woodlands. Promote value of forests and woodlands to “screening” and “greening” local towns and villages.
- Encourage sensitive forest management to enhance the visual impact of woodlands on internal and external views.
- Help to diversify farmed landscapes through appropriate woodland expansion and enhancing habitat connectivity.
- Encourage the sympathetic management of trees and woodland in

designed landscapes, as well as valued individual ancient and heritage trees.

Managing the historic environment

- Identify and safeguard evidence of the historic environment, including historic landscapes, through good forest design planning and by the sensitive management of all forest operations.
- Encourage and support the active protection, management, enhancement and interpretation of the historic environment in accordance with [Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment](#), [The Scottish Historic Environment Policy](#), [Conserving and managing trees and woodlands in Scotland's designed landscapes](#) and [Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes](#).
- Work with partners to maintain up-to-date online historical, landscape and environmental data sources.

KEY THEME SEVEN: BIODIVERSITY

Conserve and enhance the region's biodiversity and increase an awareness and enjoyment of it

Why

- Stirling & Clackmannanshire has an important role to play in preserving Scotland's unique biodiversity.
- Maintaining or enhancing biodiversity is an integral part of achieving sustainable development.
- Native, and especially ancient, semi-natural, woodlands have high biodiversity and historic value.
- Fragmentation poses a serious threat to their biological richness and to the species that depend on them.
- Stirling & Clackmannanshire contain an number of priority species and habitats and these require special help if they are to survive.
- Many woodlands established in the 20th century are composed mainly of non-active tree species, and are, ecologically, still 'young' forests. With age and restructuring these plantations are becoming increasingly diverse, and significant biodiversity gains will arise as this process continues; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcome 8 and Stirling's Strategic Topic 5.
- Biodiversity is as important to people in urban areas as it is to rural communities and there is great potential to use forests and woodlands in Stirling & Clackmannanshire to accrue health, wealth and education benefits for its residents and visitors; thereby contributing to Clackmannanshire's Priority Outcomes 2, 3 & 7 and Stirling's Strategic Topics 4 & 5.

What Needs to be Done

Consultation Comments

“Maintain good range of age and species diversity in every woodland”

“Increase riparian woodland and woodlands in towns”

“Strike an appropriate balance when considering forestry projects”

“Protect biodiversity through planning process”

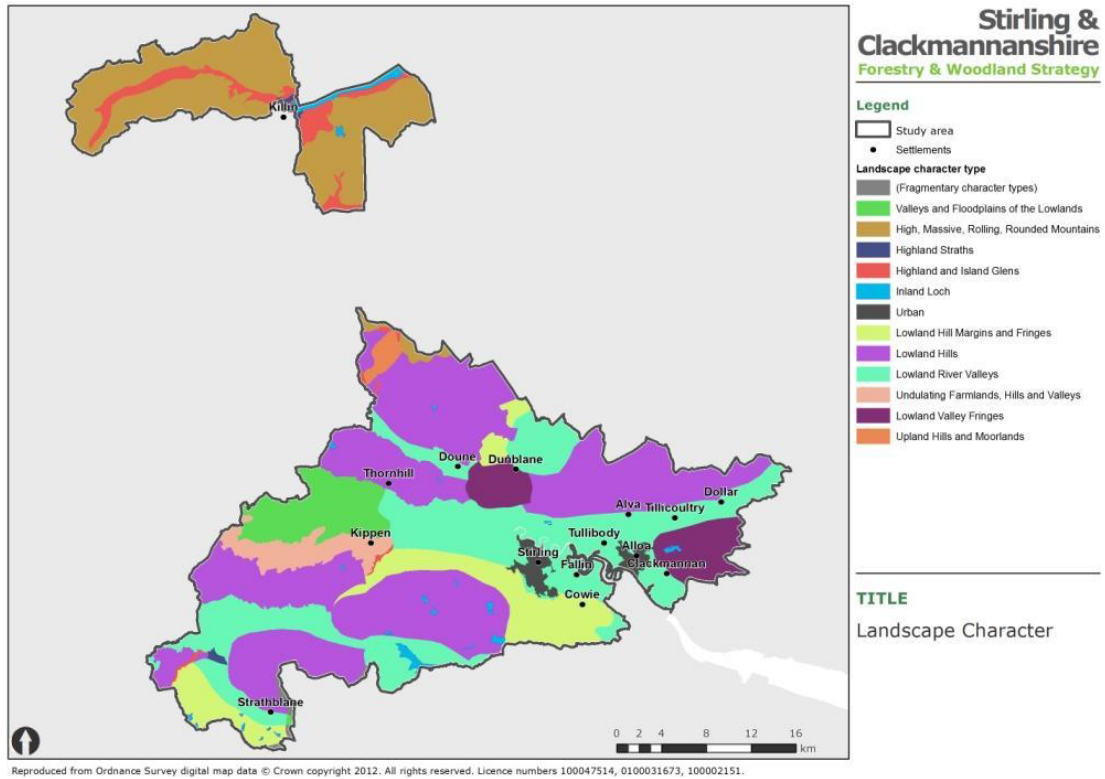
“Increase awareness of benefits of woodlands to farm holdings”

Reverse biodiversity decline by targeted action

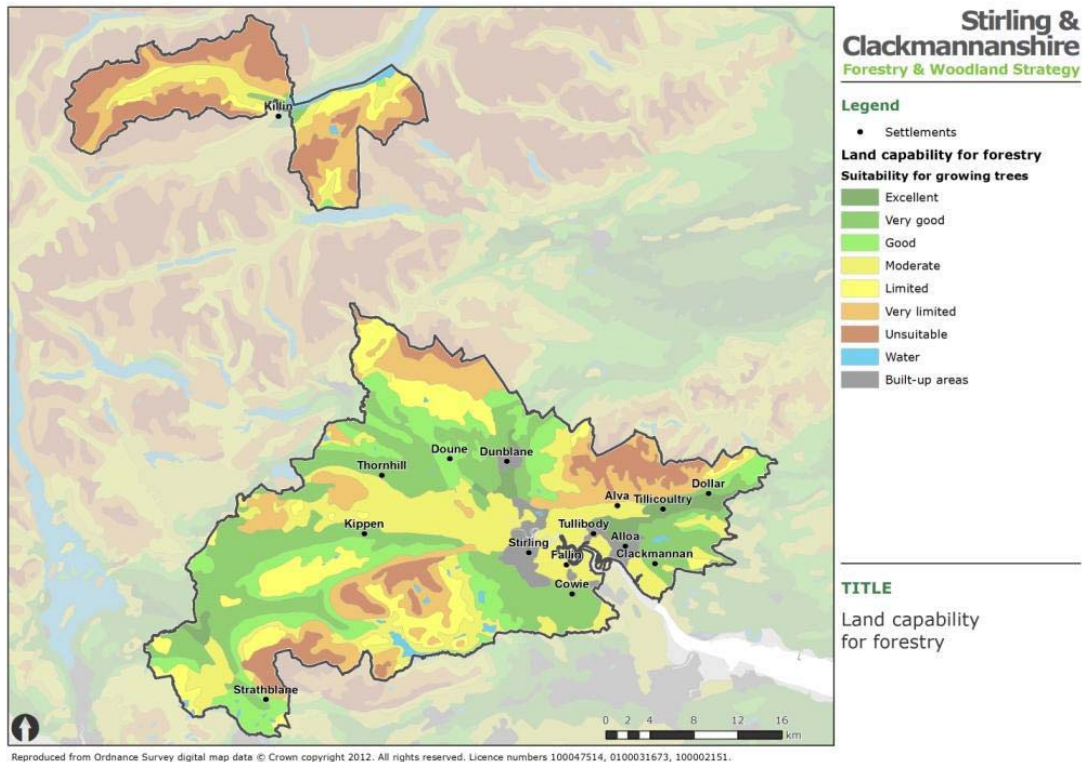
- Maintain and enhance ancient woodland features in Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and restore to native woodland, at an ecologically appropriate pace, sites with a significant biodiversity legacy or at key locations in native woodland habitat networks where the remnant ancient woodland plant communities are most at risk.
- Continue support for the conservation of key species and habitats identified in the Stirling & Clackmannanshire LBAPs, SNH's Natural Heritage Futures, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and UKBAP.
- Restore and expand priority open ground habitats (e.g. peatlands) at key locations where the benefits of woodland removal outweigh the benefits of retaining woodland cover.
- Ensure that the protection of woodlands of high biodiversity value is a principal consideration in the development control process.

Stirling & Clackmannanshire Forestry & Woodland Strategy

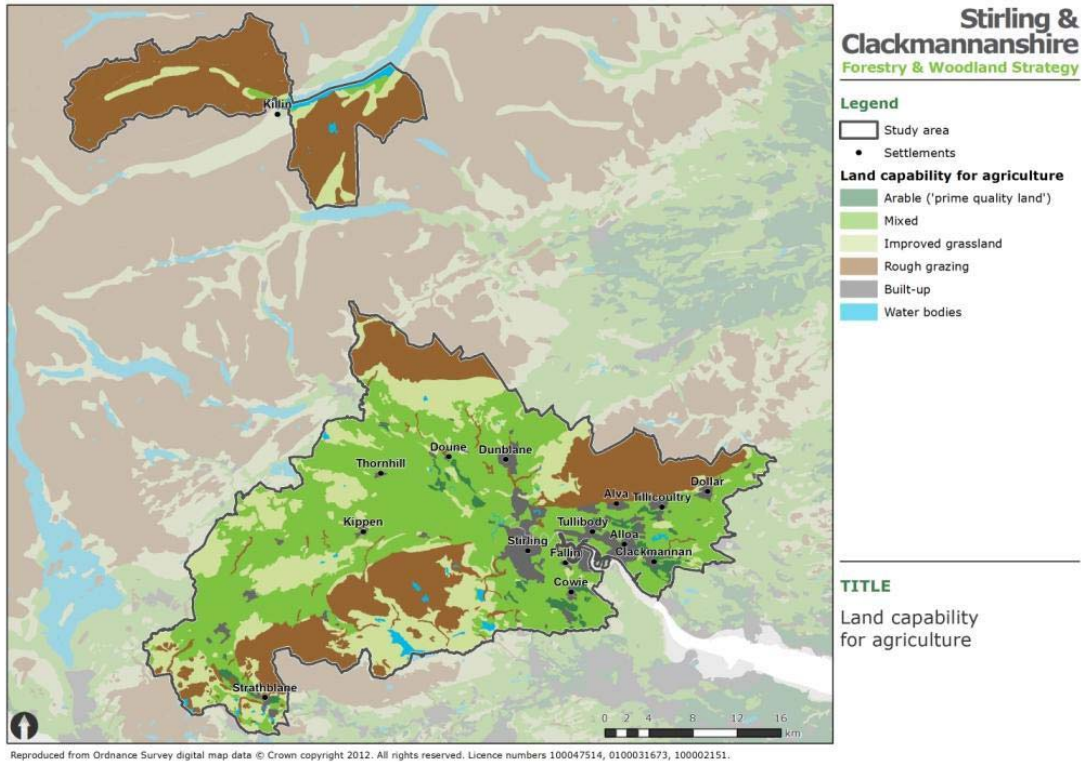
Appendix V - Maps



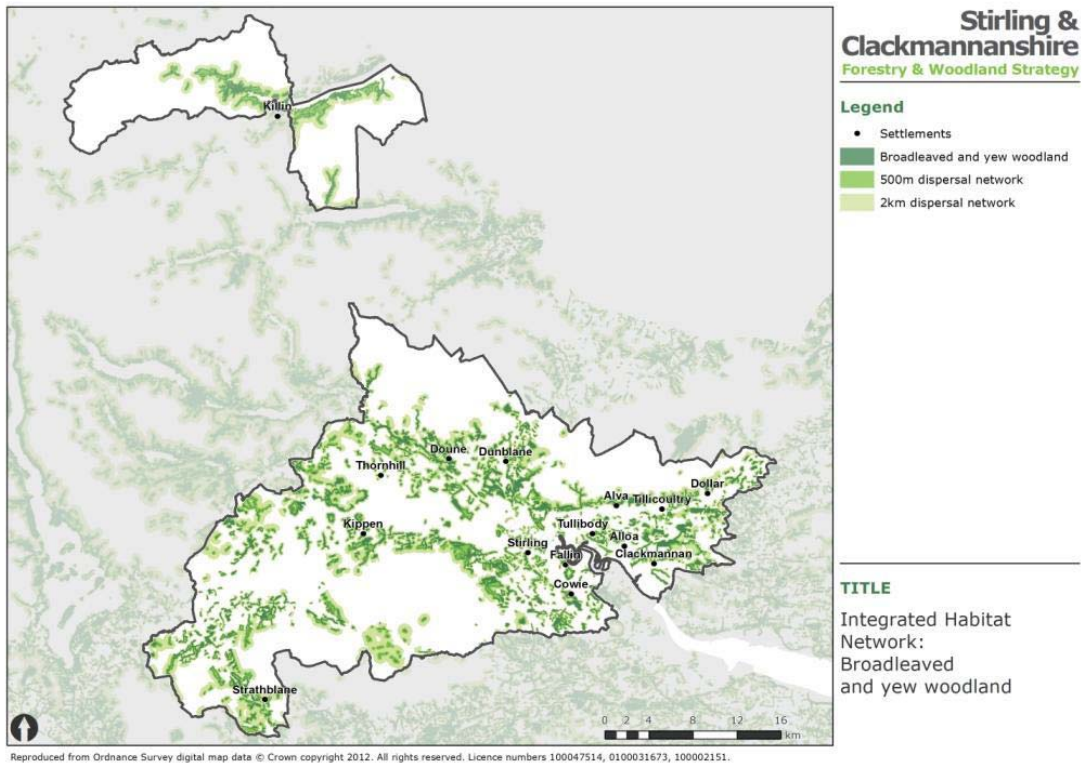
Map 1 Landscape Character



Map 2 Land capability for forestry



Map 3 Land capability for agriculture



Map 4 Integrated Habitat Network - Broadleaved and yew woodland

Stirling & Clackmannanshire Forestry & Woodland Strategy

Appendix VI - References

As stated in the SCFWS (p.1):- “..... the purpose is to provide a local expression of how the national vision and priorities for the protection and expansion of Scotland’s forest and woodland resource, as set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS), will be achieved.”

The SCFWS is therefore founded on an extensive range of relevant national and local policy, environmental and technical guidance and advice. Wherever possible these are referenced either in the SCFWS or the appendices. Additional information is also provided in the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

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Appendix VII - Key Partners

CC	Clackmannanshire Council
<i>ConFor</i>	<i>Confederation of Forest Industries</i>
CSGNT	Central Scotland Green Network Trust
<i>CSWF</i>	<i>Central Scotland Woodfuel Forum</i>
<i>CWA</i>	<i>Community Woodland Association</i>
<i>FCA</i>	<i>Forestry Contracting Association</i>
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
<i>FEI</i>	<i>Forest Education Initiative</i>
<i>GAS</i>	<i>Green Aspirations Scotland</i>
<i>HGS</i>	<i>Historic Garden Society</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Historic Scotland</i>
<i>LANTRA</i>	<i>Lantra Sector Skills Council</i>
<i>NFUS</i>	<i>National Farmers Union of Scotland</i>
<i>NHS</i>	<i>National Health Service</i>
<i>RPID</i>	<i>Rural Payment & Inspections Directorate</i>
<i>SEARS</i>	<i>Scotland's Environmental & Rural Services</i>
<i>SFTT</i>	<i>Scottish Forest & Timber Technologies Group</i>
<i>SLE</i>	<i>Scottish Land & Estates</i>
<i>SNH</i>	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
<i>SWA</i>	<i>Scottish Woodlot Association</i>
<i>SWHA Scottish</i>	<i>Scottish Wild Harvests Association</i>
<i>SWT</i>	<i>Scottish Wildlife Trust</i>
<i>SEPA</i>	<i>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</i>
SC	Stirling Council
<i>TTS</i>	<i>Towards Transition Stirling</i>
<i>VisitScotland</i>	<i>Visit Scotland</i>