

## **Notice of Meeting and Agenda Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee.**

| <b>Date</b>               | <b>Time</b> | <b>Venue</b>           |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Monday, 14 September 2020 | 11:15       | Remotely by MS Teams , |

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Clerk

### **Membership**

Councillor Denis Johnston and Councillor Alan Moir (East Dunbartonshire Council); Councillor Alan Lafferty and Councillor Stewart Miller (East Renfrewshire Council); Bailie Glenn Elder and Councillor Kenny MacLean (Glasgow City Council); Councillor Jim Clocherty and Councillor David Wilson (Inverclyde Council); Councillor Harry Curran and Councillor Agnes Magowan (North Lanarkshire Council); Councillor Tom Begg and Councillor Marie McGurk (Renfrewshire Council); Councillor John Anderson and Councillor Alistair Fulton (South Lanarkshire Council); and Councillor Jonathan McColl and Councillor Lawrence O'Neill (West Dunbartonshire Council).

Councillor Lawrence O'Neill (Convener); Councillor David Wilson (Vice-Convener).

### **Members of the Press and Public**

Members of the press and public wishing information in relation to the meeting should contact [elaine.currie@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.currie@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

## Items of business

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

### Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- |          |  |                  |
|----------|--|------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Minute</b>  | <b>3 - 6</b>     |
|          | Minute of meeting of this Joint Committee held on 8 June 2020.   |                  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Revenue Budget Monitoring</b>   | <b>7 - 10</b>    |
|          | Report by Treasurer and Strategic Development Plan Manager.  |                  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region</b>  | <b>11 - 150</b>  |
|          | Report by Strategic Development Plan Manager.  |                  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Scottish Planning Policy and Housing Technical Consultation on Proposed Policy Amendments Proposed Clydeplan Response</b> | <b>151 - 172</b> |
|          | Report by Strategic Development Plan Manager.  |                  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>  |                  |
|          | Note that the next meeting of this Joint Committee will be held at 11.15 am on 14 December 2020.                             |                  |

## Minute of Meeting Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee.

| Date                 | Time  | Venue                           |
|----------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| Monday, 08 June 2020 | 11:15 | Remotely by BT Conference Call, |

### Present

Councillor Alan Moir (East Dunbartonshire Council); Councillor David Wilson (Inverclyde Council); Councillor Harry Curran (North Lanarkshire Council); Councillor Tom Begg (Renfrewshire Council); and Councillor Lawrence O'Neill (West Dunbartonshire Council).

### Chair

Councillor O'Neill, Convener, presided.

### In Attendance

S Tait, Strategic Development Plan Manager and D McDonald, Assistant Strategic Development Plan Manager (both Strategic Development Plan Core Team); S Jamieson, Head of Regeneration and Planning (Inverclyde Council); L Bowden, Business Manager (Strategic Planning) (North Lanarkshire Council); A McMahon, Chief Auditor, K Festorazzi, Senior Accountant and E Currie, Senior Committee Services Officer (all Renfrewshire Council); and M Ferris, Senior Manager (Audit Scotland).

### Apologies

Councillor Jim Clocherty (Inverclyde Council); Councillor Agnes Magowan (North Lanarkshire Council); and Councillor Alistair Fulton (South Lanarkshire Council).

### Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to the commencement of the meeting.

## 1 Minutes

There was submitted the Minute of meeting of this Joint Committee held on 11 May 2020.

The Strategic Development Plan Manager advised that the Glasgow City Regional Cabinet had endorsed the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy on 2 June 2020 and that the strategy document would be considered at the meeting of the Glasgow City Regional Partnership scheduled to be held on 18 June 2020.

Further that correspondence had been received from the Chief Planner, Scottish Government, advising that NPF4 would be laid before Parliament in September 2021 and that an interim statement would be made in the Autumn.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That the Minute be approved; and

(b) That the updates in relation to the indicative Regional Spatial Strategy and NPF4 be noted.

## 2 Unaudited Annual Accounts 2019/20

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and the Strategic Development Plan Manager relative to the unaudited annual accounts for the Joint Committee 2019/20, a copy of which were appended to the report.

The report intimated that the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 would be submitted to Audit Scotland in advance of the statutory deadline of 30 June 2020. The accounts showed that the Joint Committee had ended the 2019/20 financial year with a deficit of £36,800, compared to a budgeted deficit of £15,800, resulting in an overspend of £21,000. The Management Commentary within the accounts provided an overview of the Committee's financial performance during 2019/20 together with the outlook for the future.

The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 required that the Joint Committee prepare and publish a set of accounts, including an Annual Governance Statement, by 30 June each year. The unaudited accounts were then required to be formally considered by the Joint Committee no later than 31 August and the Annual Governance Statement should be formally approved at this time.

In accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, the unaudited annual accounts would be signed only by the Treasurer as proper officer. The accounts would then be subject to external audit by the Joint Committee's appointed auditor, Audit Scotland, by 30 September. The 2019/20 audited annual accounts were scheduled to be presented to the Joint Committee on 14 September 2020 for approval and signing by the Chair, the Lead Officer and the Treasurer, in accordance with the regulations.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That the annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 be noted and that the accounts be further presented to the Joint Committee on completion of the audit;



- (b) That the Annual Governance Statement be approved; and
- (c) That the final budget monitoring position for 2019/20 be noted.

### **3 Internal Audit Annual Report 2019/20**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Auditor, Renfrewshire Council, relative to the Internal Audit Annual Report on the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee 2019/20.

The report intimated that the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards required that the Chief Auditor prepare an annual report on the internal audit activity's purpose, authority and responsibility as well as performance relative to its plan. The report must also provide an annual audit opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment of the audited body.

The annual report for the Joint Committee was appended to the report and outlined the role of internal audit, the performance of the internal audit team and the main findings from the internal audit work undertaken in 2019/20 and contained an audit assurance statement.

**DECIDED:** That the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2019/20 be noted.

### **4 Corporate Purchasing Card Expenditure**

There was submitted a joint report by the Treasurer and the Strategic Development Plan Manager detailing the list of expenses incurred through corporate procurement card payment by type and employee for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted.

### **5 Date of Next Meeting**

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that the next meeting of the Joint Committee would be held at 11.15 am on 14 September 2020.



## GLASGOW AND THE CLYDE VALLEY STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY JOINT COMMITTEE

**To:** Joint Committee

**On:** 14 September 2020

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**Report by:** The Treasurer and the Strategic Development Plan Manager

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**Heading:** Revenue Budget Monitoring Report to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1 Gross Expenditure is currently £7,000 underspent and income is £22,000 over recovered resulting in a net underspend of £29,000. This is summarised in point 4.
- 

### 2 Recommendations

It is recommended that

- 2.1 Members consider the report.
- 

### 3 Budget Adjustments Since Last Report

- 3.1 There have been no budget adjustments since the start of the financial year.
- 

### 4 Budget Performance

- |     |                            |                           |
|-----|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1 | <b>Current Position</b>    | <b>£29,000 Underspend</b> |
|     | <i>Previously Reported</i> | <i>N/A</i>                |

The underspend in Premise costs, in particular lease and utilities costs is due to the move from West Regent Street to John Street.

The overspend in Supplies and Services is due to the purchase of new ICT equipment to allow home working due to Covid 19.

The over recovery in income is due to the secondment to the Glasgow City Region.

#### **4.2 Projected Year End Position**

The projected year end position is an underspend of £71,000. This is mainly due to the reduction in premises costs due to the move from West Regent Street to John Street and an over recovery in Income.

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RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21  
1st April 2020 to 21st August 2020

JOINT COMMITTEE : GLASGOW & CLYDE VALLEY STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY

| Description<br><br>(1)               | Agreed Annual Budget<br><br>(2) | Year to Date Budget<br><br>(3) | Actual<br><br>(4) | Budget Variance |             |                      |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|
|                                      |                                 |                                |                   | £000's          | (5)<br>%    |                      |
|                                      |                                 |                                |                   |                 |             |                      |
| £000's                               | £000's                          | £000's                         | £000's            |                 |             |                      |
| Employee Costs                       | 507                             | 186                            | 186               | 0               | 0.0%        | breakeven            |
| Premises Related                     | 41                              | 12                             | 2                 | 10              | 83.3%       | underspend           |
| Supplies & Services                  | 57                              | 15                             | 18                | (3)             | -20.0%      | overspend            |
| Support Services                     | 20                              | 0                              | 0                 | 0               | 0.0%        | breakeven            |
| Transfer Payments                    | 3                               | 2                              | 2                 | 0               | 0.0%        | breakeven            |
| Transport Costs                      | 6                               | 0                              | 0                 | 0               | 0.0%        | breakeven            |
| <b>GROSS EXPENDITURE</b>             | <b>634</b>                      | <b>215</b>                     | <b>208</b>        | <b>7</b>        | <b>3.3%</b> | <b>underspend</b>    |
| Contributions from Local Authorities | (580)                           | (289)                          | (289)             | 0               | 0.0%        | breakeven            |
| Other Income                         | (54)                            | (13)                           | (35)              | 22              | 0.0%        | over-recovery        |
| <b>INCOME</b>                        | <b>(634)</b>                    | <b>(302)</b>                   | <b>(324)</b>      | <b>22</b>       | <b>7.4%</b> | <b>over-recovery</b> |
| <b>TRANSFER (TO)/FROM RESERVES</b>   | <b>0</b>                        | <b>(87)</b>                    | <b>(116)</b>      | <b>29</b>       |             |                      |

£000's

Underspend from Core Budgets

29

Bottom Line Position to 21st August 2020 is an underspend of

29

Anticipated Year End Budget Position is an underspend of

71

Opening Reserves

(311)

Projected Increase in Reserves

(71)

Projected Closing Reserves

(382)



**Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority**

**To: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority  
Joint Committee**

**On: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Report by  
Stuart Tait, Manager**

**Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Joint Committee to consider and approve for consultation the Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy (FWS) for the Glasgow City Region.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Joint Committee
- a) consider the Draft FWS;
  - b) agree that the Draft FWS be subject to a six week period of consultation during September/October; and,
  - c) following the consultation process a further report be brought back to a future meeting of the Joint Committee.

**3. Context**

- 3.1 The Draft FWS seeks to set an appropriate policy context to support forestry and woodland planting and management across the Glasgow City Region. The Draft FWS is intended to provide broad strategic locational guidance and environmental advice to those seeking to expand or manage woodlands.
- 3.2 The preparation of a FWS for the City Region was one of the Scottish Ministers modifications to the current Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 places a requirement on local authorities to prepare a FWS. This Draft FWS will provide the strategic context for local FWS's.

**4. Policy Context**

- 4.1 The Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 sets the Scottish Government's vision, objectives and priorities for the expansion of woodland and the development of the forestry sector to 2070 - [www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/).
- 4.2 The Scottish Forestry Strategy also sets the following targets for new woodland expansion across Scotland:
- 12,000ha per year from 2020/21;
  - 14,000ha per year from 2022/23;

- 15,000ha per year from 2024/25.
- 4.3 These targets are intended to contribute to increasing woodland cover to 21% of land area of Scotland by 2032. The draft FWS for the Glasgow City Region has been developed in order to understand and establish an appropriate regional target for woodland expansion by making a sustainable and achievable contribution to the Scottish Government's national aspirations.
- 4.5 The role of forestry in contributing to the post COVID-19 Green Recovery including climate change has been recognised by the Scottish Government. It has committed to continued investment in forestry and woodland planting and biodiversity protection and improvements as part of the delivery of nature based solutions to the crisis.

## **5. Forestry and Woodland Strategy Review**

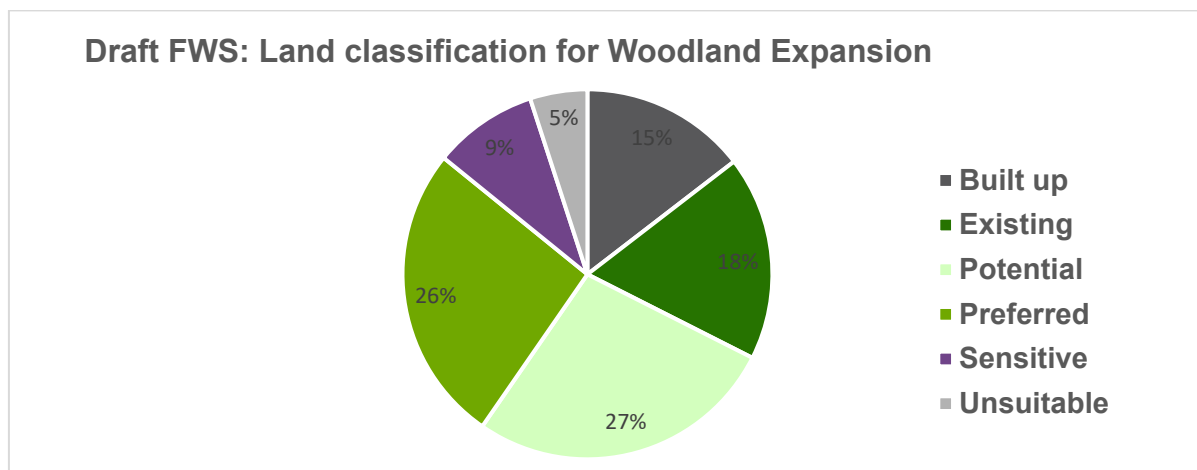
- 5.1 The Draft FWS reflect an updated approach to the treatment of peat and carbon soil data whilst having regard to;
- the Climate Emergency and
  - progress on climate change adaptation and mitigation;
  - the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019;
  - the Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy;
  - the Forestry and Land Management Act 2018; and,
  - the role of woodland in Natural Flood Management.
- 5.2 New legislation and the climate change agenda have provided an opportunity for the Glasgow City Region to deliver the first FWS in Scotland framed within this new and evolving policy context.
- 5.3 To ensure the successful delivery of the draft FWS and to provide appropriate consideration of the updated policy framework, a collaborative approach was taken through the formation of a partnership including Clydeplan, its Environment Topic Group, the GCV Green Network Partnership, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Forestry.
- 5.4 The partnership approach acknowledged the sensitivity and complexity of some of the issues that have been considered in the development of the draft FWS and facilitated opportunities for ownership and input from all stakeholders throughout the development of the draft FWS and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA). The partnership has worked with Land Use Consultants (LUC) who are assisting with the necessary spatial analysis and policy development for the FW. The draft FWS will also be accompanied by an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA).
- 5.5 The partnership approach was also extended to early engagement with the Consultation Authorities responsible for considering the SEA for the FWS and with Scottish Natural Heritage in relation to the development of the HRA. This early engagement and the involvement of all partners in the development of the draft FWS and the associated documents has facilitated full discussion of environmental considerations relating to the draft FWS; in particular the updated approach to the treatment of peat and carbon soil.



## **6. The Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy**

- 6.1 The aim of the Draft FWS is to guide woodland expansion and management across the City Region, providing a policy and spatial framework to optimise the benefits for the local and regional economy as well as for communities and the environment.
- 6.2 In addition to benefiting local authorities, the FWS will be useful and applicable to anyone with an interest in woodland and forestry issues in particular Scottish Forestry, woodland managers and developers and communities. The FWS aims to:
- promote the creation of high quality, multi-functional woodland;
  - inform the design and management of woodland in the Clydeplan area;
  - assist in protecting and enhancing valued woodland;
  - inform woodland planting to secure positive effects for biodiversity and environmental net gain; to achieve ecosystem restoration;
  - inform development of future Local Development Plans (LDP) and planning guidance for the local authorities within the Clydeplan area;
  - inform local authority development management, investment and asset management decisions on proposals that include woodland removal or woodland creation;
  - guide local authority responses to consultation on planting proposals and applications for grant support for woodland creation and management;
  - assist with the development and approval of Felling Permissions, and long-term Forest Plans and Land Management Plans;
  - guide development and delivery of grant support for forestry activities; and
  - complement partner strategies and guidance for the rural and area natural environment.
- 6.3 The Draft FWS is intended to provide broad guidance and does not seek to provide detailed guidance on local sensitivities, including the presence of peat. Site specific assessment of individual proposals for woodland expansion or removal will still be necessary.
- 6.4 The Draft FWS complements the existing regulatory process administered by Scottish Forestry with any woodland expansion and management expected to comply with the UK Forestry Standard and Scottish Forestry Guidelines.
- 6.5 The following Vision has been set for the FWS:
- “By 2040, expanded networks of woodland in the Clydeplan area will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, healthy and empowered communities living in a high quality place with a rich and resilient environment, and a competitive, inclusive and successful economy.”*

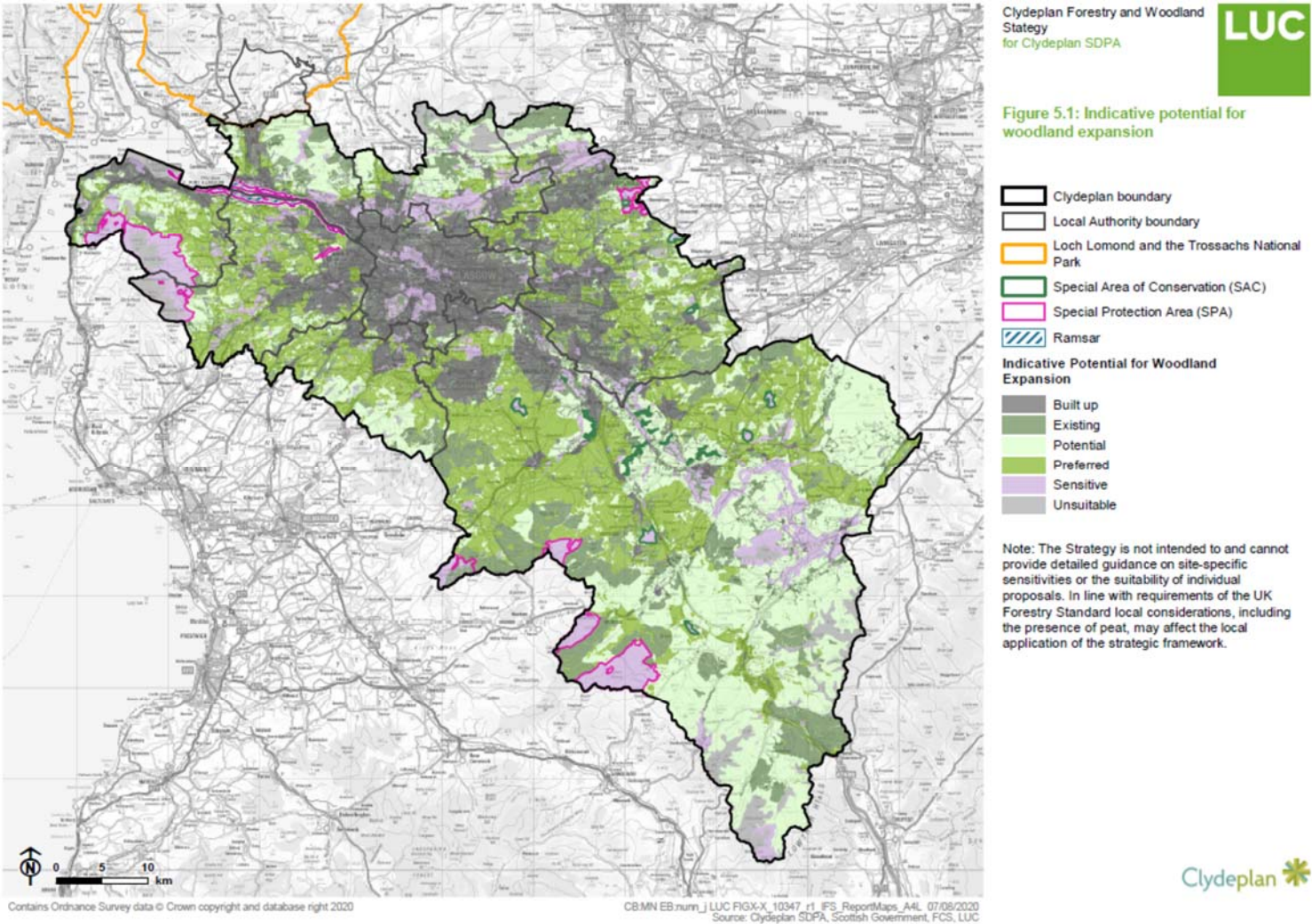
- 6.6 In order to deliver the Vision, the following aims, have been identified in the Strategy:
- maximise the contribution that the Clydeplan area's existing and future woodlands can make to achieving carbon neutrality in line with the Scottish Government targets and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
  - expanding Clydeplan's woodland resource and improving its management;
  - building and supporting the City Regions forest and woodland economy;
  - empowering communities and enhancing quality of life and wellbeing; and
  - promoting and enhancing the quality of City Region's environment.
- 6.7 The aims developed within the FWS are supported by more detailed objectives. In order to maximise the contribution that trees and woodlands can make to this broad range of aims, a number of policies have also been established under each objective.
- 6.8 The draft FWS establishes that the existing forest resource across the City Region extends to approximately 57,000 ha. It considers the opportunities for expanding the future extent of woodland within the context of national forestry policy and acknowledges the role that programmes such as the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network including the 'Clyde Climate Forest' will have in achieving national targets.
- 6.9 The potential for woodland expansion is identified through three strategic categories, namely, *Preferred*, *Potential* and *Sensitive* as well as those areas that are physically unsuitable for woodland and areas of existing woodland as can be seen below.



- 6.10 The potential for woodland is not evenly distributed throughout Glasgow City Region, due to a range of sensitivities including International and national environmental designations. In view of this, the draft FWS provides a landscape based spatial framework in order to address local priorities for woodland expansion and management. A broad indication of the distribution of potential expansion by landscape zone is provided above with Farmlands and Plateau Moorland offering the largest area in the Preferred woodland expansion category.
- 6.11 Further analysis completed for the Strategic Environmental Assessment process tested a number of possible scenarios for woodland expansion in the Glasgow City Region to establish an ambitious, but achievable and environmentally, economically and socially sustainable aspiration for the sector to work towards. It has therefore been calculated that the City Region could accommodate woodland cover of a little over **21% of its land area** - an increase of approximately **9,000ha** - over the lifetime of the Strategy (to 2040).
- 6.12 The draft FWS provides additional indicative mapping setting out the appropriate location, nature and scale for new woodland, including, softwoods, energy woodland and urban woods to deliver the aspiration for expansion (Map 1). These will be multi-benefit woodlands that make a sustainable and long term contribution to meeting the national target.
- 6.13 In order to provide further locational detail and assist in the delivery of the aspiration for expansion, the landscape based Spatial Guidance within the draft FWS interprets potential for woodland expansion for each of the eleven landscape zones. The contextual detail provided relates to opportunities and sensitivities affecting woodland management and expansion within each zone. It also highlights where additional assessment or regulatory processes may be required.



Map 1







**Clydeplan (Glasgow and Clyde Valley  
Strategic Development Planning  
Authority)**

# **Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region**

**Draft final report**  
Prepared by LUC  
August 2020



# Clydeplan (Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority)

## Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region 2020

**Project Number**  
10347

| Version | Status      | Prepared                           | Checked           | Approved   | Date       |
|---------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| 1.      | Draft       | Laura McGowan<br>Susanne Underwood | Susanne Underwood | Steven Orr | 17.07.2020 |
| 2.      | Final Draft | Susanne Underwood<br>Erin Hynes    | Susanne Underwood | Steven Orr | 10/8/2020  |



# Contents

|  |           |  |           |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| List of abbreviations  | iii       | Promote improved management of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley's woodland resource  | 34        |
| Glossary   | iv        | Promote high standards of woodland design  | 34        |
| <b>Chapter 1</b><br><b>Introduction</b>  | <b>1</b>  | Make a sustainable contribution to the delivery of the Scottish Government's incremental national targets for new woodland per annum | 35        |
| Purpose of the Strategy  | 4         | <b>Chapter 6</b><br><b>Economy</b>   | <b>46</b> |
| Status of the Strategy   | 4         | Creating an environment for investment   | 47        |
| Timescale  | 4         | Contributing to a healthy wood production and processing sector  | 53        |
| Using the Strategy   | 5         |  |           |
| Delivery and monitoring  | 6         | <b>Chapter 7</b><br><b>Community</b>   | <b>57</b> |
| Legislative and policy context   | 6         | Facilitating community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership  | 57        |
| <b>Chapter 2</b><br><b>Vision, Aims and Objectives</b>   | <b>9</b>  | Supporting community enterprise and development  | 59        |
| The vision   | 9         | Supporting opportunities for education and lifelong learning   | 59        |
| Cross-cutting principles   | 9         | Contributing to physical and mental health and wellbeing   | 59        |
| Aims and objectives  | 10        | Enhancing local sense of place and promoting connections to the wider environment  | 60        |
| Implementation   | 11        |  |           |
| <b>Chapter 3</b><br><b>Clydeplan's Woodlands</b>   | <b>13</b> | <b>Chapter 8</b><br><b>Environment</b>   | <b>63</b> |
| Introduction   | 13        | Improve the condition and resilience of biodiversity   | 63        |
| Overview of Clydeplan's woodland resource  | 13        | Supporting the Central Scotland Green Network  | 70        |
| <b>Chapter 4</b><br><b>Climate Change</b>  | <b>20</b> | Improve woodland's contribution to the conservation and management of ecosystem services and functions                               | 72        |
| Policy context   | 20        | Contribute to the conservation, enhancement and understanding of Clydeplan's valued natural heritage and historic environment        | 76        |
| Reduce the forestry sector's emissions and contribute to mitigation measures   | 21        |  |           |
| Adapt to the predicted effects of climate change   | 23        | <b>Chapter 9</b><br><b>Spatial Guidance</b>  | <b>80</b> |
| <b>Chapter 5</b><br><b>Expand and Manage</b>   | <b>28</b> | Introduction   | 80        |
| The current situation  | 28        | Spatial framework  | 81        |
| Encourage the creation of woodlands of an appropriate nature, scale and composition to deliver the Strategy's priorities | 29        | Farmland   | 83        |
|  |           | Foothills  | 85        |
|  |           | Incised River Valleys  | 87        |

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Lowland Valley            | 89  |
| Moorland Hills            | 91  |
| Plateau Moorland          | 93  |
| Southern Uplands          | 95  |
| Upland Farmland           | 97  |
| Upland Valley             | 99  |
| Urban & Urban Greenspaces | 101 |

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|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Chapter 10</b><br><b>Monitoring</b> | <b>104</b> |
|--|------------|

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|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Chapter 11</b><br><b>[Click to enter text]</b> | <b>106</b> |
|---|------------|

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|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Appendix A</b><br><b>Policy context</b> | <b>106</b> |
|--|------------|

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|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Appendix B</b><br><b>Mapping methodology</b> | <b>113</b> |
|---|------------|

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|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Interpretation         | 114 |
| Key assumptions        | 115 |
| Mapping woodland types | 116 |

---

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Appendix C</b><br><b>Interpreting the maps</b> | <b>117</b> |
|---|------------|

---

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Appendix D</b><br><b>Information required for forestry applications</b> | <b>121</b> |
|--|------------|

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|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Environmental Impact Assessments | 121 |
|----------------------------------|-----|

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|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Appendix E</b><br><b>South Scotland Woodland Creation<br/>Regional Delivery Indicative Areas</b> | <b>123</b> |
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**List of abbreviations**

|                      |  |       |  |
|----------------------|--|-------|--|
| AOD                  | Above ordnance datum                                   | SNH   | Scottish Natural Heritage                |
| AQMA                 | Air Quality Management Area                            | SPA   | Special Protection Area                  |
| CCF                  | Continuous Cover Forestry                              | SPP   | Scottish Planning Policy                 |
| CSFT                 | Central Scotland Forest Trust                          | SRDP  | Scotland Rural Development Programme     |
| CSGN                 | Central Scotland Green Network                         | SSSI  | Site of Special Scientific Interest      |
| CSGNT                | Central Scotland Green Network Trust                   | SMF   | Sustainable Management of Forests        |
| EIA                  | Environmental Impact Assessment                        | SuDS  | Sustainable Drainage Systems             |
| FC                   | Forestry Commission                                    | SVDLS | Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey |
| FEI                  | Forest Education Initiative                            | SWT   | Scottish Wildlife Trust                  |
| FFWS                 | Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy                 | TCV   | The Conservation Volunteers              |
| HEPS                 | Historic Environment Policy for Scotland               | UKFS  | UK Forestry Standard                     |
| HRA                  | Habitats Regulations Appraisal                         | UKWAS | UK Woodland Assurance Standard           |
| HS                   | Historic Scotland                                      | VDL   | Vacant and Derelict Land                 |
| INNS                 | Invasive Non-Native Species                            | WHS   | World Heritage Site                      |
| LCA                  | Landscape Character Assessment                         | WIAT  | Woods In and Around Towns                |
| LDP                  | Local Development Plan                                 | WIG   | Woodland Improvement Grant               |
| LISS                 | Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems                     |       |  |
| LLA                  | Local Landscape Areas                                  |       |  |
| LNR                  | Local Nature Reserve                                   |       |  |
| NFLS                 | National Forest Land Scheme                            |       |  |
| NNR                  | National Nature Reserve                                |       |  |
| NPF3                 | National Planning Framework 3                          |       |  |
| PAWS                 | Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites                  |       |  |
| RAFTS                | Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland                |       |  |
| SAC                  | Special Area of Conservation                           |       |  |
| SF                   | Scottish Forestry                                      |       |  |
| SFS                  | Scotland's Forestry Strategy                           |       |  |
| SG                   | Scottish Government                                    |       |  |
| SIMD                 | Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation                 |       |  |
| SINC                 | Site of Importance for Nature Conservation             |       |  |
| SIRR<br>Regeneration | Special Initiative for Residential-led<br>Regeneration |       |  |
| SLA                  | Special Landscape Area                                 |       |  |
| SM                   | Scheduled Monuments                                    |       |  |

## Glossary

| Term                                 | Definition / Explanation  |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Adaptation                           | Measures reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, for example by increasing readiness for pests and winds, creating woods and networks, and using woodlands in flood management.  |
| Ancient semi-natural woodland        | The term ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) is used to describe those semi-natural stands on ancient woodland sites.  |
| Ancient woodland                     | Woodland is referred to as ancient woodland when it has been in continuous existence since before AD 1600 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland or since before AD 1750 in Scotland.   |
| Biodiversity                         | The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species), including genetic variation within species.   |
| Biodiversity Action Plan             | A Biodiversity Action Plan is a plan for a key habitat or species, to establish the factors for its decline and the work necessary for its recovery.  |
| Broadleaves                          | Broadleaved trees are characterised by their broad leaves (i.e. not needles typical of conifers) and most are deciduous. They produce 'hardwood' timber.  |
| Central Scotland Green Network       | The Central Scotland Green Network is a long-term initiative which aims to restore and transform the landscape of Central Scotland and to promote environmental quality, woodland cover and recreational opportunities. It covers an area stretching from Ayrshire and Inverclyde in the west to Fife and the Lothians in the east  |
| Central Scotland Green Network Trust | The CSGNT provides capacity to help realise the aims of the CSGN.   |
| Clear felling                        | Cutting down of an area of woodland (if it is within a larger area of woodland it is typically a felling greater than 0.25 ha).   |
| Climate change                       | A long-term shift in global or regional climate patterns, with the current rate of change unprecedented and accelerating as human-induced greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere.  |
| Conifers                             | Coniferous trees are characterised by their needle or scale-like leaves and most are evergreen. They produce 'softwood' timber.   |
| Continuous cover forestry            | Management of forests where a permanent growing stock is maintained and an increment is removed in cyclical interventions.  |
| Coppice                              | Management based on regeneration by re-growth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and re-growth.   |
| Ecosystem                            | The interaction of communities of plants and animals (including humans) with each other and with the non-living environment.  |
| Ecosystem restoration                | Ecosystem restoration is defined as a process of reversing the degradation of ecosystems, such as landscapes, lakes and oceans to regain their ecological functionality   |
| Ecosystem services                   | Collective term for the multitude of resources and processes supplied by natural ecosystems, which benefit humankind. Ecosystem services are distinguished from other ecosystem products and functions because there is human demand for them, and many studies have attempted to quantify their economic value. Ecosystem services include provisioning services (food, water and timber); cultural services (recreational, health, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits); regulating services (protection of water and soil resources; provision of shelter, shade and cooling, locking up atmospheric carbon); and supporting services (soil formation and photosynthesis). |
| Energy forests                       | Woodlands where a primary objective is wood fuel production.  |
| Environmental Impact Assessment      | Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Environmental Assessment Directive.   |

| Term                                  | Definition / Explanation  |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Felling Permission                    | Permission issued by Scottish Forestry to permit trees to be felled. With certain exceptions it is illegal to fell trees in Great Britain without prior Scottish Forestry/Forestry Commission approval.   |
| Forest school                         | An innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through regular positive outdoor experiences.   |
| Forest/ woodland                      | Predominantly tree covered land whether in large tracts (generally called forests) or smaller units (known by a variety of terms such as woodlands, woods, copses and shelterbelts).  |
| Forestry                              | The term 'forestry' is used to refer to the science, art and practice of managing woodlands on a professional and sustainable basis to ensure that their economic, social and environmental benefits to society are optimised.  |
| Forestry and Land Scotland            | Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is the public body charged with managing Scotland's national forests and land on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Its forest management work is regulated by SF.  |
| Habitats Regulations Appraisal        | The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 require that certain plans which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site must be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal by the plan-making authority.  |
| Invasive species                      | Introduced non-native species which spread readily and dominate native species.   |
| Lower impact silvicultural systems    | Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems which are suitable for windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands.  |
| Mixed woodland                        | Mixed species woodlands often include native broadleaves, other non-native broadleaves (such as beech and sycamore) and conifers designed to provide year-round shelter, landscape enhancement, screening or enclosure, as well as the potential to provide products for local use. In a traditional estate setting they are often known as 'policy woods'.   |
| Native species                        | A species that has arrived and inhabited an area naturally, without deliberate assistance by man, or would occur had it not been removed through past management. For trees and shrubs in the UK this is usually taken to mean those species present after post-glacial recolonisation and before historic times. Some species are only native in particular regions. Differences in characteristics and adaptation to conditions occur more locally hence the term 'locally native'.   |
| Native woodland                       | Woods composed of native species, matched to local site conditions, making use of natural colonisation where evident. They are managed mostly using low intensity or minimum intervention systems with an emphasis on developing the structural and species diversity appropriate to the woodland type.   |
| Nature based solutions                | The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines nature-based solutions as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits   |
| Peatland and carbon rich soils        | Carbon-rich soil is any soil with a surface organic layer (the O horizon as defined in the Scottish soil classification). In this context, it includes surface layers often referred to as peaty soil and peat soil.<br><br>Deep peat is soil with a surface peat layer of greater than 50cm<br><br>Priority peatland habitat is as defined in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy framework<br><br>The four peat-forming priority peatland habitats as defined in UKBAP are: • Blanket Bog • Lowland Raised Bog • Lowland Fens, and • Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps (part only) |
| Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites | Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites are former Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW) that have been more or less completely replanted with native or non-native species, degrading the ecological value of the site. The degree of loss of biodiversity varies markedly with species planted and subsequent management.   |
| Plantations                           | Those woodlands which are derived principally from the human activity of planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatment but lack most of the principal characteristics and key elements of semi-natural woodland are generally referred to as plantations or woodlands of planted origin. They often include a proportion of naturally regenerated trees and are often managed to become more like natural woodlands over time.  |

| Term                                       | Definition / Explanation  |
|--|---|
| Provenance                                 | Location of trees from which seed or cuttings are collected. Designation of Regions of Provenance under the Forest Reproductive Materials regulations is used to help nurseries and growers select suitable material. The term is often confused with 'origin' which is the original natural genetic source.  |
| Ramsar sites                               | Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.  |
| Scottish Forestry                          | Scottish Forestry (SF) is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, grant support and regulation.   |
| Semi-natural woodland                      | Those woodlands which are comprised mainly of locally native trees and shrubs, and have some structural characteristics of natural woodland are referred to as semi-natural woodland.   |
| Short rotation coppice                     | Short rotation coppice (often willow or poplar) typically grown as an energy crop and harvested every 3 years.  |
| Short rotation forestry                    | The cultivation of fast-growing trees for 8-20 years.   |
| Silviculture (silvicultural)               | The techniques of tending and regenerating woodlands, and harvesting their physical products.   |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | A statutory designation in Great Britain that offers statutory protection to features of natural heritage importance, principally habitats and species, but can also include sites of geological/geomorphological interest.   |
| Softwood forests                           | Softwood forests are designed to provide a sufficient quantity and consistency of predominantly softwood timber for economically viable timber production. Careful design uses opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity while also providing a backdrop for outdoor access and recreation. 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. |
| Special Area for Conservation (SAC)        | Areas originally designated under European Directives, now protected in Scotland by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) – also known as 'The Habitats Regulations'.   |
| Special Protection Area (SPA)              | Area designated under the EU Birds Directive.   |
| Thinning                                   | Tree removal, which results in a temporary reduction in basal area, made after canopy closure to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.   |
| Windthrow                                  | Uprooting of trees by the wind.   |

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

## Background

**1.1** The Clydeplan FWS is a strategic document which covers the entire Clydeplan area. The document has been agreed by all of the Clydeplan local authorities. The Strategy should be used to inform decisions on woodland creation, taking into account local context and site specific information.

**1.2** Forestry and woodlands make a significant contribution to the economy, communities and the environment of the Clydeplan area. The Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region (hereafter referred to as the Strategy) updates the existing Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy<sup>1</sup> which was prepared in 2011, to support the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan<sup>2</sup> (SDP1 approved in 2012). The 2011 Strategy was fully reviewed in 2015, but not adopted. This update of the 2015 document is primarily directed towards:

- Taking account of:
  - Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029;
  - the Forest and Land Management Act 2018;
- Consideration of the updated approach to the treatment of peat and carbon soil data (including reference to UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and guidelines on peat);
- Having regard to the following:
  - Climate Emergency;
  - Progress on climate change adaptation and mitigation, including the role of woodland for carbon sequestration;
  - Planning (Scotland) Act 2019;
  - Glasgow City Regional Economic Strategy;
  - The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership
  - The role of woodland in Natural Flood Management
  - The role of woodland in carbon sequestration.

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<sup>1</sup> Land Use Consultants, 2011. *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy* [pdf]. Available at: [http://www.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk/files/Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy.pdf](http://www.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk/files/Glasgow%20and%20Clyde%20Valley%20Forestry%20and%20Woodland%20Strategy.pdf) [Accessed 14 November 2014]

<sup>2</sup> Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority, 2012. *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk/sdp/approved-strategic-development-plan-may-2012> [Accessed 14 November 2014]

**1.3** In early 2019, the UK and Scottish Governments both declared a climate emergency, with Scotland setting the ambitious 2045 net zero target.

**1.4** Steps have been taken to mainstream climate change adaptation into all areas of future development and growth. Within Glasgow and the Clyde Valley this has been supported by the work of Climate Ready Clyde which is working to minimise the risks and seize the opportunities for the economy, society and environment.

### Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029

**1.5** Scotland's Forestry Strategy (SFS) sets the Scottish Government's vision, objectives and priorities for the expansion of the nation's woodland and development of the forestry sector to 2070.

**1.6** Critically, it establishes ambitious targets for woodland expansion, in the context of Scotland's commitments to tackle climate change. Refining the target set in the 2016 Scottish Forestry Strategy, SFS establishes the following aspiration for new woodland:

- 12,000ha per year from 2020/21
- 14,000ha per year from 2022/23
- 15,000ha per year from 2024/25

**1.7** This is intended to contribute to increasing woodland cover to 21% of land area nationally by 2032.

**1.8** The Strategy also aims to increase the use of wood products in construction to 3.0 million m<sup>3</sup> by 2031/32.

**1.9** In relation to native woodlands the aim is:

- To increase the amount of native woodland in good condition;
- Create 3000-5000 ha of new native woodland per year;
- Restore approximately 10 000 ha of new native woodland into satisfactory condition in partnership with private woodland owners through Deer Management Plans;
- Ensure protected sites are under good conservation management.

**1.10** It is in this context that the Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region seeks to understand and establish an appropriate regional target, making a sustainable and achievable contribution to national aspirations.

### Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

**1.11** The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 includes important amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 in relation to Forestry and Woodland Strategies. The

Act requires the planning authorities to prepare a forestry and woodland strategy, setting out their policies and proposals for the development of forestry and woodlands in their area. It states that two or more planning authorities may act jointly to prepare a forestry and woodland strategy. The strategy should have a specific focus on:

- Woodlands of high nature conservation value;
- Protection and enhancement of existing woodlands;
- Climate change resilience; and
- The expansion of woodlands to deliver multiple benefits.

### Forest and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018

**1.12** The devolution of forestry to Scotland was completed on 1 April 2019. The Act made new provisions regarding Scottish Ministers' functions in relation to forestry and land management. The Forest and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 places a duty on Scottish Ministers and Scottish public authorities to promote sustainable forestry management.

### Regional Land Use Partnerships and Frameworks

**1.13** The Scottish Government has committed to enable Regional Partnerships (RPs) to emerge by 2021 with each Partnership creating a Regional Land Use Framework (RLUF) by 2023. The establishment of Regional Land Use Partnerships will deliver a step change in the way land use decisions are made. They will deliver improved outcomes at the pace and scale needed to meet the challenge of climate and environmental targets, support economic recovery and renewal and take a more effective joined up approach to land use planning.

### Glasgow City Regional Economic Strategy

**1.14** The Glasgow City Regional Economic Strategy (2017-2035) sets out a vision for a strong, inclusive, competitive and outward-looking economy, sustaining growth and prosperity with every person and business reaching their full potential. The plan looks to grow and strengthen our business base, increasing our competitiveness by improving productivity through fostering innovation. The Strategy aims to ensure that opportunities and benefits from growing the economy positively impact on the quality of lives of all our people, tackling inequalities and disadvantage by providing them with the tools to find work, stay in work and improve their well-being, delivering economic success through inclusive growth.



## Glasgow City Region – Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy (iRSS)

**1.15** The iRSS for Clydeplan has been submitted to the Scottish Government. The iRSS is focussed on a refinement of the approved Spatial Development Strategy (now called the Spatial Investment Framework) from the 2017 Strategic Development Plan. The SIF continues to be based on a compact city model which will support:

- minimisation of carbon and development footprints through optimising urban densities
- regeneration and renewal through the reuse of vacant and derelict land,
- climate change adaptation and mitigation
- improved environmental quality, and
- sustainable connectivity, particularly active travel.

**1.16** The SIF is supported by the Glasgow City Region City Deal and its spatial expression creates a development corridor east to west through the City Region, parallel to the River Clyde and M8 corridor, including the Mission Clyde Corridor. In addition to the key spatial priorities identified through the iRSS continues to support the MGSDP and the GCVGN including the delivery of its Blueprint including the creation of the 'Clyde Climate Forest'.

## Local policy framework

**1.17** Local authorities may also develop their own more detailed local strategies to deliver woodland creation in their area and reflect local considerations, in line with development plan policy.

## Natural flood management

**1.18** SEPA's handbook for natural flood management<sup>3</sup> outlines that climate change, population growth, economics and environmental legislation such as the Floods Directive and Water Framework Directive all necessitate a move towards a more integrated catchment-based approach to the management of land and water. A key component of this integrated catchment-based approach is the recognition that working with natural processes to manage the sources and pathways of flood waters can benefits flood risk in other parts of the catchment and is known as natural flood management.

**1.19** Woodland and trees reduce the rate at which precipitation reaches the ground, and also the rate of lateral

transport across the ground into watercourses. Land management practices such as those associated with agriculture and forestry also bring about changes to soils which affect water holding and the rate of infiltration. Well-sited and well-managed floodplain, riparian and catchment woodlands can contribute to a suite of nature-based solutions.

## COVID-19 Green Recovery

**1.20** COVID-19 has led to an unprecedented shutdown of large parts of the global economy. As a result, it has also facilitated a substantial shift in our behaviours. A large proportion of the population have been working remotely from home for several months, as well as engaging more in active travel, and minimising travel beyond their local area. This has had a significant effect on the environment, with a dramatic reduction in air pollution and the release of greenhouse gasses, globally, compared to pre-COVID levels.

**1.21** The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has highlighted the opportunity to turn the COVID-19 crisis into a defining moment in the fight against climate change, and have provided advice on delivering economic recovery that accelerates the transition to a cleaner, net-zero emissions economy, whilst strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change.

**1.22** The CCC have set out the principles to building a resilient economy in the 'Reducing UK emissions: 2020 Progress Report to Parliament'. One of the key principles relates to increasing tree planting, peatland restoration and green infrastructure. The report acknowledges that there may be significant benefits for the climate, biodiversity, air quality and flood prevention, as a result of making substantial changes to land use.

**1.23** Enabling a shift toward positive, long-term behaviour patterns may also provide opportunities to support economic recovery. There is a need to continue to reinforce the 'climate-positive' behaviours that have emerged during the lockdown, including increased remote working, cycling and walking. Promoting afforestation, peatland restoration and the creation and enhancement of green infrastructure will encourage greater use of the natural environment for active travel and recreation. In addition, it will enable greater rates of carbon sequestration whilst providing sustainable adaptation measures for the predicted effects of climate change. The Strategy has an important role to play in helping to deliver the steps needed to support a green recovery.

<sup>3</sup> SEPA (2015) Natural Flood Management Handbook. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/163560/sepa-natural-flood-management-handbook1.pdf>

## Purpose of the Strategy

**1.24** The aim of The Strategy is to guide woodland expansion and management of woodlands in the Clydeplan area (see **Figure 1.1**),<sup>4</sup> providing a policy and spatial framework to optimise the benefits for the local economy, communities and the environment. This includes directing woodland to the most appropriate locations, and therefore supporting opportunities for the positive management of non-woodland habitats. Specifically, it will:

- promote the creation of high quality, multi-functional woodland;
- inform the design and management of woodland in the Clydeplan area;
- assist in protecting and enhancing valued woodland;
- inform woodland planting to secure positive effects for biodiversity and environmental net gain;
- to achieve ecosystem restoration<sup>5</sup>
- inform development of future Local Development Plans (LDP) and planning guidance for the local authorities within the Clydeplan area;
- inform local authority development management, investment and asset management decisions on proposals that include woodland removal or woodland creation;
- guide local authority responses to consultation on planting proposals and applications for grant support for woodland creation and management;
- assist with the development and approval of Felling Permissions, and long-term Forest Plans and Land Management Plans;
- guide development and delivery of grant support for forestry activities; and
- Complement partner strategies and guidance for the rural and area natural environment.

## Status of the Strategy

**1.25** The Strategy will inform the development of the Clydeplan local authorities' Local Development Plans and associated guidance. The final strategy will be a material consideration in planning decisions.

The Strategy is intended to provide broad strategic locational and environmental advice to those seeking to manage or expand woodlands. The Strategy is not intended to and cannot provide detailed guidance on site-specific sensitivities or the suitability of individual proposals. Local considerations may affect the local application of the strategic framework. The mapping is based on the best available data at the time of the Strategy development, however the environmental context for forestry and woodland planting will be influenced by a range of factors. It is important to recognise that the guidance provided by the mapping is the first stage in the process, and the most up-to-date available data should be used during site specific assessment.

### **The importance of site-specific assessment of individual proposals for woodland expansion, or woodland removal, remains paramount.**

It complements – and relies on – the existing regulatory process administered by Scottish Forestry under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 and the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Where woodland removal accompanies development within the meaning of the planning acts, the Clydeplan local authorities are generally responsible for determining applications.<sup>6</sup> In addition to relevant national and local planning policies, the [Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal](#) is a key consideration in such cases.

In addition, woodland expansion and management will be expected to comply with the UK Forestry Standard and Scottish Forestry Guidelines and practice notes.

## Timescale

**1.26** The Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region has been developed through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including the Clydeplan local authorities and provides a strategic framework for forestry and woodland management and expansion in the area. The Vision covers the 20 year period to 2040 and the Strategy covers a 10-year period from 2020 to 2030 – and incorporates five-yearly reviews. Woodland creation and management are intrinsically long-term activities, which require long-term planning to make an effective contribution. Securing green networks and the multiple benefits that woodland and forestry can provide needs a vision that works in parallel with aspirations for, economic, social and environmental

<sup>4</sup> Clydeplan comprises the eight local authorities of East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Dunbartonshire Councils.

<sup>5</sup> UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

<sup>6</sup> For larger-scale energy developments (e.g. wind farms over 50MW in capacity) the Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, is responsible for determining applications under the Electricity Act 1989

development. **Therefore, it is anticipated that the core policy content of the Strategy will be updated and aligned with the review process for the Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan and the development of future Regional Spatial Strategies.**

## Using the Strategy

**1.27** The Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region is intended to be accessible and useful for everyone with an interest in woodland and forestry issues, including: public agencies; Local Authority Officers and elected Members; landowners; land managers and agents; private sector businesses and individuals; representative organisation and community partnerships. The following paragraphs provide further details on how the Strategy will be of particular benefit to a range of stakeholders.

### Clydeplan Local Authorities

**1.28** The Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region, and associated spatial data, will inform the planning authorities' development management decisions that include proposals for woodland removal or creation, and in developing locally-focussed action plans for woodland expansion and management. It should be read in conjunction with other local authority policy and guidance for trees and woodland, such as local biodiversity action plans, tree and woodland strategies, open space strategies and rural development strategies.

**1.29** The Strategy will be interpreted and applied in line with existing and emerging policy frameworks, and the priorities identified in the Single Outcome Agreements between the relevant Community Planning Partnerships and the Scottish Government.

**1.30** The Strategy will provide a consistent approach to woodland creation and management across the region, including in the urban landscape. In addition, it will emphasise the importance of species diversity to provide resilience against pest and disease risks, particularly at a landscape level, and will highlight the need for woodland access standards to ensure social benefits are achieved.

**1.31** The eight Clydeplan local authorities will have regard to the Strategy when preparing their Local Development Plans and future non-statutory planning guidance. In addition, it will be a material consideration in planning decisions. Authorities will have regard to the Strategy when responding to applications for woodland creation and management funding.

## Scottish Forestry

**1.32** Scottish Forestry (SF) will require land managers seeking grants for woodland expansion or management to develop their proposals in line with this Strategy, ensuring that opportunities are maximised while taking account of environmental and other sensitivities.

**1.33** Proposals will be assessed in line with relevant forestry legislation and policy, and will be expected to comply with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and relevant SF technical guidance.

**1.34** The Strategy will also assist with the development and approval of Felling Permissions, long-term Forest Plans and Urban Woodland Management Plans.

**1.35** The Scottish Government, through Scottish Forestry, is currently working in partnership with four local authorities in the south of Scotland (Dumfries & Galloway, East Ayrshire, Scottish Borders, and South Lanarkshire) in developing a new, more integrated approach to how land managers can consider opportunities for new woodlands, particularly those of a larger scale, in the context of future land use.<sup>7</sup>

**1.36** Scottish Forestry, together with the above local authorities, has been working on the project to develop a potentially improved method for scoping and prioritising areas for new woodland creation, under the project title of South Scotland Woodland Creation - Regional Delivery. The project involves an initial phase of GIS based constraints analysis, at a finer grain than the analysis for the FWS, to identify potential pilot areas, followed up by a second stage of landowner engagement and then progressing to local consultation events. Scottish Forestry hopes that this work will lead to an agreed, national methodology that will speed up decision making on establishing new woodland. This will act as a mid-level tier of guidance lying between FWS at the strategic level and woodland grant schemes at site level.

**1.37** There are three broad areas selected for initial investigation within South Lanarkshire (see **Appendix E**). However, this work is at a very early stage and discussions with landowners will be carried out to determine whether they might be available for woodland expansion, and public engagement will be undertaken. As this initiative is developed, additional local guidance will be published by project partners which will help guide future decision making on planting proposals within such areas and which would be considered in conjunction with the FWS.

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Forestry, Exploring Opportunities for Woodland Creation at a Landscape Level. Available at:

<https://scottishforestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=80c9dc010b2b4e7a81e613f523c78fb5>

### Woodland managers and developers

**1.38** The private sector will be central to delivering a significant component of the target for woodland cover in the region, and across Scotland as a whole.

**1.39** The Strategy provides a clear vision for how the woodland resource and forest-based economy in the Clydeplan area should develop over the next 20 year period. The priorities established in the following chapters provide guidance on what type of woodland management and creation schemes are likely to be supported, and also where agents and land managers should refer to this information when developing grant proposals and/or seeking to establish new woodland.

### Communities

**1.40** The Strategy provides communities with a useful insight into the key issues, the potential patterns of woodland management that could develop in their area, and highlights the benefits that can be derived from woodland by local people. It also sets out the range of social, environmental and economic benefits that through consultation and engagement with communities, can be delivered in local areas.

### Delivery and monitoring

**1.41** To facilitate implementation, the strategic aims of the Strategy are translated into objectives and priorities to be pursued by partners in the region's development.

**1.42** Where resources allow, local authorities will use the FWS to inform the development of plans and strategies which they are taking forward in their areas.

**1.43** Performance against the aims, objectives and priorities of this Strategy will be monitored by partners and fed into action planning and future revisions. An outline monitoring framework is provided in **Chapter 10**.

### Legislative and policy context

**1.44** The management use and expansion of woodlands sit at the interface of planning, environmental and forestry policy. While this means that trees and woodland can help to achieve a wide range of objectives, it also means that the regulatory situation is sometimes complicated. This does, however, help to ensure that adverse social and environmental effects can be identified and successfully avoided or mitigated. **Appendix A** explores the policy context in more detail. In addition to the regulatory framework it is important to recognise that relevant local policy also has a role in influencing The Strategy.

Table 1.1: Legislative and strategic policy context

| Forestry  | Planning   | Natural Heritage   | Historic Environment  | Water and Soil  |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009</p> <p>Forestry &amp; Land Management (Scotland) Act 2019</p> <p>Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) Scotland Act 2019<sup>8</sup></p> <p><b>Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</b></p> | <p>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended</p> <p><b>Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as amended</b></p> | <p>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004;</p> <p><b>The Conservation (Natural Habitats &amp;c.) Regulations 1994, as amended;</b></p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p> <p>Wildlife &amp; Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 - production of triennial Biodiversity Duty reports</p> | <p>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)</p> <p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997</p>  | <p>Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003;</p> <p>Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009;</p>  |
| <p><b>UK Forestry Standard;</b></p> <p><b>Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-29;</b></p> <p><b>(Scotland Rural Development Programme)</b></p>  | <p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP);</p> <p>National Planning Framework 3</p>  | <p><u>2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity: A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland</u></p>  | <p>Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS);</p> <p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP);</p> <p><u>'Our Place in Time': The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014)</u></p> | <p><u>Scottish Soil Framework (2009);</u></p> <p><u>'Getting the Best from our Land': A land use Strategy for Scotland (2011);</u></p> <p>Scotland River Basin Management Plan;</p> <p>Natural Flood Management Handbook (2015)</p> <p>Scotland's National Peatland Plan (2015)</p> <p>UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) (2017)</p> |
| <p><u>Scottish Government Rationale for Woodland Expansion;</u></p> <p><u>Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal;</u></p>  |  |  | <p><u>Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment</u></p>   |   |
| <p>National Forest Estate Strategic Plan</p>  | <p>Clydeplan Strategic Development Plan 2017</p> <p>Local Development Plans</p>  |  |   |   |
| <p><u>FC Guidelines</u></p>   |  | <p><u>Forests and Landscape;</u></p> <p><u>Forests and Biodiversity</u></p>  | <p><u>Forests and the Historic Environment</u></p>  | <p><u>Forests and Water;</u></p> <p><u>Forests and Soil Guidelines;</u></p> <p><u>Forests and Peatlands</u></p>   |

<sup>8</sup> Some local authorities have adopted more ambitious targets for carbon neutrality



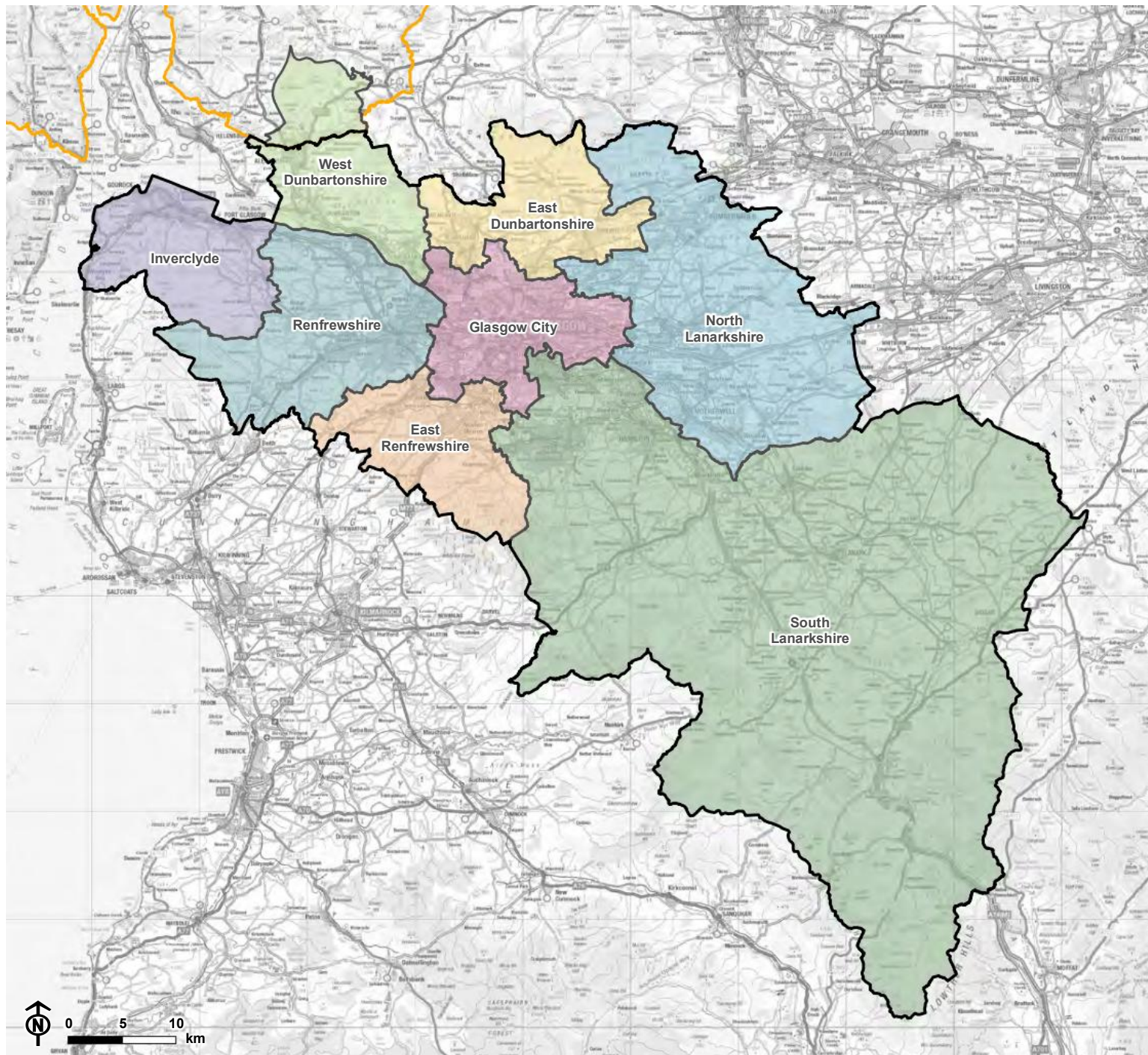
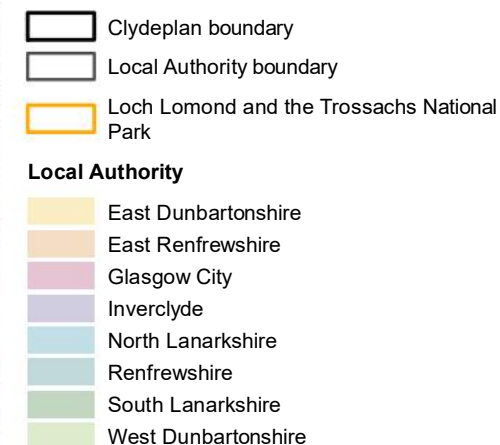


Figure 1.1: Clydeplan Strategic  
Development Area



## Chapter 2

### Vision, Aims and Objectives

#### Where we want to be

##### The vision

**“By 2040, expanded networks of woodland in the Clydeplan area will contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, healthy and empowered communities living in a high quality place with a rich and resilient environment, and a competitive, inclusive and successful economy”.**

**2.1** The Strategy will be a key means of delivering this vision, providing advice on how it can be achieved, priorities for woodland management and expansion and information on the opportunities for woodland to add value to the economy, the environment and social outcomes.

#### How we're going to get there...

##### Cross-cutting principles

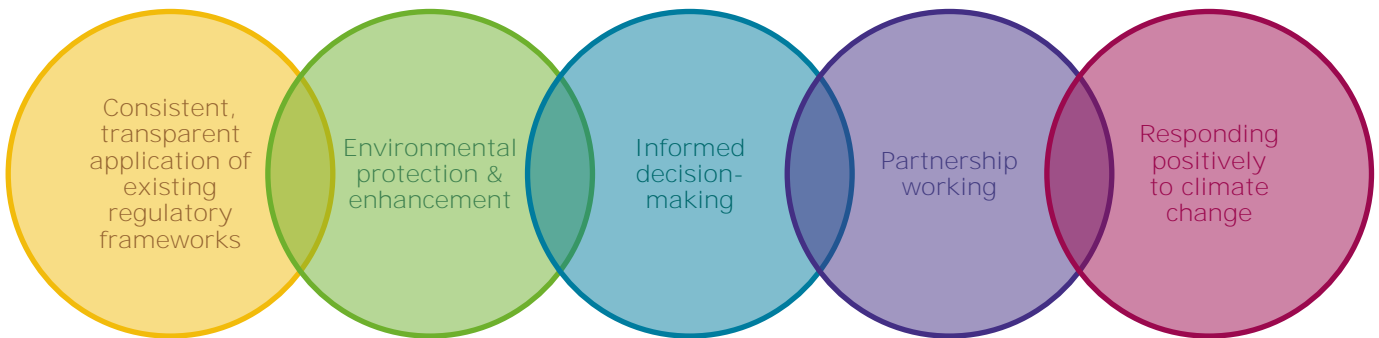
**2.2** The Strategy sits within a complex legislative and policy context, as illustrated in Table 1.1, Section 1 and relies on a range of pre-existing regulatory processes to implement its priorities and provide robust decision-making processes.

**Therefore, the Strategy can only play an advisory role in relation to environmental protection and the weighing of potential benefits against likely impacts. Detailed site-specific assessment of proposals for woodland creation and management will always be required to provide this information and contribute to well-informed decisions. Proposals for woodland creation and management plan should seek opportunities to protect, manage and create non-woodland habitats and networks.**

**2.3** The following policy principles, drawn from the forestry, planning and wider environmental protection regimes acting upon woodland creation and management practice, will influence delivery of all of the Strategy's priorities. They provide a robust framework to ensure that national and international legislative policy and regulatory commitments are adhered to and that the core aims of the Scottish and UK Governments' aspirations for woodland – embodied by

Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-29 and the UK Forestry Standard – are achieved.

Diagram 2.1: Cross-cutting principles



## Aims and objectives

**2.4** The following aims, established in the Vision, have been identified for the Strategy:

- maximise the contribution that the Clydeplan area's existing and future woodlands can make to achieving carbon neutrality in line with the Scottish Government targets and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- expanding Clydeplan's woodland resource and improving its management;
- building and supporting Clydeplan's forest and woodland economy;
- empowering communities and enhancing quality of life and wellbeing; and
- promoting and enhancing the quality of Clydeplan's environment

**2.5** These aims are developed in the following sections of the Strategy, each supported by more detailed **objectives**. Under each objective, a number of **policies** have been defined for the next five years to guide woodland management and expansion activity. These are designed to maximise the contribution that trees and woodlands can make to a broad range of policy goals. This provides a framework to guide implementation and monitoring of progress during the Strategy's lifetime.

**2.6** The cross cutting principles are summarised in Diagram 2.1.

### THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE...

**AIM:** Maximise the contribution that the Clydeplan area's existing and future woodlands can make to achieving carbon neutrality in line with the Scottish Government targets and adapting to the impacts of climate change

- Reducing the forestry sector's emissions and contribute to mitigation measures;
- Adapting to the predicted effects of climate change;
- Ensure that new forestry and woodland planting complements other land uses that contribute to climate change mitigation.

### THEME: EXPAND AND MANAGE...

**AIM:** Expanding Clydeplan's woodland resource and improving its management

- Encourage the creation of woodland of an appropriate nature, scale and composition to deliver the Strategy's priorities.
- Promote active management of the woodlands and forestry within the Clydeplan area.
- Promote high standards of woodland design in new and existing woodlands.
- Make a sustainable contribution to the delivery of the Scottish Government's incremental national targets for new woodland per annum.



**THEME: ECONOMY...****AIM:** Building and supporting the forest and woodland economy

- Creating an environment for investment through
  - Temporary planting on stalled sites
  - Greening vacant and derelict land
  - Enhancing transport corridors
  - Promoting rural development and diversification
  - Supporting tourism and recreation
  - Shaping new communities
- Contributing to a healthy wood production and processing sector.

**THEME: COMMUNITY...****AIM:** Empowering communities and enhancing quality of life

- Facilitating community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership;
- Supporting community enterprise and development;
- Supporting opportunities for education and lifelong learning;
- Contributing to physical and mental health and well-being;
- Enhancing local sense of place and promoting connections to the wider environment;
- Supporting development of appropriate public access provision in new and existing woodlands.

**THEME: ENVIRONMENT...****AIM:** Promoting and enhancing the quality of the environment

- Improving the condition and resilience of Clydeplan's woodland biodiversity;
- Supporting the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network;

- Improving woodland's contribution to ecosystem restoration and the use of nature-based solutions;
- Contributing to the conservation, enhancement and understanding of Clydeplan's valued natural heritage and historic environment;

**Implementation**

**2.7** As noted above, the Strategy does not stand alone. It will be interpreted, applied and delivered through two key routes:

- grants and assessment process and felling permissions, administered by Scottish Forestry; and,
- The Town and Country Planning system and related consents, administered by:
  - The Clydeplan local authorities, for the purposes of development planning and development management; and,
  - Scottish Ministers, for planning appeals, 'called-in' applications and energy consents<sup>9</sup>.

**2.8** Following the UK's departure from Europe, Scottish Government proposes to continue with the current Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) until at least 2024. Any successor to FGS will roll out until at least 2025. There will be scope for a variety of pilots of various approaches to rural funding over the next few years, but FGS will continue throughout this period.

**2.9** The current plan is that FGS will remain open as normal from 1 January 2021. The current grant options, rates and application and approval processes will continue unchanged. Whilst modest revisions and improvements are planned, there won't be any major changes in the next few years.

**2.10** Current advice is that UK Treasury will provide funding to Scottish Government to replace current levels of EU co-financing to FGS. It is also proposed to increase the amount of SG funding for forestry grants, but that is part of the normal annual cycle of spending reviews.

**2.11** Through either route, good planning and rigorous assessment are essential, ensuring that site-specific issues, opportunities and constraints are fully understood, and other regulatory requirements are met.

**Environmental Impact Assessment**

**2.12** Some types of forestry and development projects have the potential for significant environmental effects, including:

<sup>9</sup> For example, under Sections 36 (generating stations) and 37 (overhead transmission) of the Electricity Act 1989, as amended.

- Energy, extractive industries, waste processing, infrastructure development or larger-scale housing;
- Development with the potential to generate pollution;<sup>10</sup>
- Afforestation over 20 ha (no threshold in: SSSI, European sites, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments);
- Woodland removal over 1ha (no threshold as above);
- Forest roads and quarries over 1ha (no thresholds as above)<sup>11</sup>.

**2.13** It is for the decision-making body (planning authorities for development; Scottish Forestry for forest roads, quarries, woodland creation and removal) to determine whether a proposal could have significant environmental effects and require formal EIA processes.

### Habitats Regulations Appraisal

**2.14** Where plans or projects are likely to have significant effects on European sites – Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas – the Habitats Regulations require competent authorities (i.e. the public body producing the plan or making a decision on proposals) to undertake an assessment of these effects. This requirement applies to any plan or project that has the potential to affect a European site, regardless of how far away the proposed activities may take place. 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal' (HRA) refers to the whole assessment process:

- Screening: to determine whether the plan or project will have likely significant effects on the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the site and, hence, whether appropriate assessment is required.
- 'Appropriate assessment':<sup>12</sup> assessing each of the likely significant effects in detail, setting out detailed conclusions and what actions are proposed to ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations (i.e. to avoid or mitigate impacts).
- HRA Record: a succinct document setting out the findings of the process and correspondence with SNH.

**2.15** For forestry activities, qualifying **plans** could include:

- Long Term Forest Plans prepared to support grant applications;
- Detailed management plans produced by local authorities for managing their woodland estate;

- Forestry and Woodland Strategies (Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken for this document).

**2.16** Qualifying projects could include:

- Woodland creation schemes with the potential to affect the qualifying interests, integrity or conservation objectives of a European site. For example:
  - Planting, woodland removal, creation of forest roads or quarrying within the boundaries of any Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area or candidate site for designation;
  - Planting, woodland removal, creation of forest roads or quarrying in areas providing supporting habitat for SPA bird populations (e.g. favoured raptor foraging or goose grazing and roosting areas)
  - Planting, woodland removal, creation of forest roads or quarrying in areas providing supporting ecosystem services to designated habitats (e.g. planting within the same hydrological unit as SAC-designated habitat, affecting drainage patterns; planting where changes to drainage patterns could affect SAC-designated watercourses)

**2.17** Competent authorities, in consultation with SNH, determine whether HRA is required. It should be noted that it is not the nature or scale of a plan or project that is important – simply whether it could have likely significant effects on European site interests.

<sup>10</sup> A full list is provided in Schedules 1 and 2 of the [Town and Country Planning \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2017](#)

<sup>11</sup> Guidance on EIA of forestry projects can be obtained from the [SF website](#).

<sup>12</sup> Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended, requires competent authorities to make 'an appropriate assessment' of the implications for the site and its conservation objectives of any likely significant effects

## Chapter 3

### Clydeplan's Woodlands

#### Introduction

**3.1** Forests, woodlands and trees make an important contribution to the character of landscapes and environmental quality of the Clydeplan area. They are a key resource for biodiversity, form an integral part of historic landscapes, and provide a range of environmental benefits (or 'ecosystem services') that make a substantial contribution to quality of life and support land-based industries. There are significant opportunities to increase the benefits delivered by woodland to the region's environment, people and economy. This can be achieved through a combination of woodland creation and management of existing assets.

**3.2** This section of the Strategy explores the key types of woodland in the region, sets out the main issues affecting the resource and highlights where action is required to secure additional benefits.

#### Overview of Clydeplan's woodland resource

**3.3** Trees can be an important component of the urban environment, contributing to the quality of urban greenspaces such as Strathclyde Park and Castlemilk Woodland Park, to formal squares and gardens such as those found across the West End, key river corridors including the Kelvin, Leven and the White Cart through Linn Park in Glasgow and East Renfrewshire. New towns such as Cumbernauld, by contrast, have an extensive planned greenspace network, much of which includes woodland which is now starting to mature. Trees and woodlands are, however, much less common in large areas of social housing and some of the newer suburbs. There is significant potential to increase tree cover across the area's townscapes, linking and extending existing habitats, providing stepping stones and corridors through the urban area, offering shelter and improving the physical environment. There are opportunities to link into wider policies and programmes such as 'Woods In and Around Towns' (WIAT), local food growing (e.g. allotments and orchards), wood fuel projects, South Scotland Woodland Creation, and the Clyde Climate Forest Urban Canopy Cover Project.

**3.4** The middle Clyde Valley, and its series of deeply incised tributaries, has some of the most intact and ecologically rich woodlands in the Clydeplan area much of which is internationally or nationally designated. The Clyde Valley has

a legacy of orchards, many of which have been lost or stand derelict, and a series of designed landscapes many with distinctive policy woodlands.

**3.5** Neighbouring areas of plateau farmland are, by contrast, more open and exposed, with woodland cover often limited to lines of field boundary trees and small farm woodlands. Here there is a need for positive management and replacement of existing trees, but also potential for new woodland planting, possibly linked to improving habitat networks and wood fuel production.

**3.6** Across significant parts of Lanarkshire, the pattern of coal mining and associated industrial activity has left a legacy of vacant and derelict land with a wider fragmented rural landscape. Over the past decade, the Central Scotland Forest has made a significant positive contribution to these landscapes, using woodland planting and other enhancements to improve a damaged landscape and secure significant benefits for communities across the area. Moving forward, through the Central Scotland Green Network, this provides lessons which could be used to inform the Strategy across much of the study area. There is significant potential to further increase woodland cover in these areas to transform post-industrial landscapes while contributing to a broader range of policy outcomes.

**3.7** The contribution woodlands can make to regenerating areas is being recognised across the Clydeplan area. The Commonwealth Woodland Programme, spanning 14 woodlands in Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, and South Lanarkshire, provide a range of activities such as Commonwealth-themed sculpture trails, walking routes, woodland workouts and green routes to school. The largest and most significant of the woodlands is

the £5.7 million Cuningar Loop Woodland Park, situated within the Clyde Gateway regeneration area at Rutherglen.

**3.8** The Clydeplan area has proved to be an attractive location for wind energy developments, particularly for medium to large scale schemes in upland locations, with some of the largest wind farm schemes in the country located in the area (for example Whitelee Wind Farm and Clyde Wind Farm). As a result, plantations in the area are under increasing pressure, particularly as extensive forest coverage often coincides with upland areas which have potential for wind farms.

**3.9** Productive forestry is an important feature of many rural areas, particularly in plateau and upland areas where geometric blocks of even aged conifers often contrast with the apparent wildness of the surrounding area. Examples are found on the Kilpatrick Hills, Clyde Muirshiel, parts of the Campsie and Kilsyth Fells, the Southern Uplands and the plateau moorlands bordering Ayrshire to the south west and Falkirk and the Lothians to the north east. Restructuring is beginning to have an enhancing effect on these areas, with more varied species and age structures and an increase in the diversity of habitats. Some of these places offer significant potential for recreation, with areas such as the Carron Valley already accommodating a regionally important mountain biking facility.

### Composition of Clydeplan's woodland resource

**3.10** According to the National Forest Inventory 2018, there are approximately 56,828 hectares of woodland within the Clydeplan area, of which approximately 14,000 hectares are native woodlands (derived from the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland 2014)<sup>13</sup>. This is illustrated in Figure 3.1: National Forest Inventory and Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1: Clydeplan woodland composition<sup>14</sup> (National Forest Inventory 2018)**

| Category (NFI 2018 Woodland category) | Area (ha) | % of Clydeplan area | % of total woodland area |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Assumed woodland <sup>15</sup>        | 3,825.87  | 1.15                | 6.73                     |
| Broadleaved                           | 12,537.50 | 3.75                | 22.06                    |
| Coniferous                            | 19,478.33 | 5.83                | 34.28                    |
| Coppice                               | 1.55      | 0.00                | 0.00                     |
| Failed                                | 56.71     | 0.02                | 0.10                     |

<sup>13</sup> Table 3.1 and 3.2 are from separate datasets, and many areas overlap, therefore it is not possible to combine the two datasets and they should be viewed separately

<sup>14</sup> Derived from the National Forest Inventory Scotland 2018 and the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland 2014.

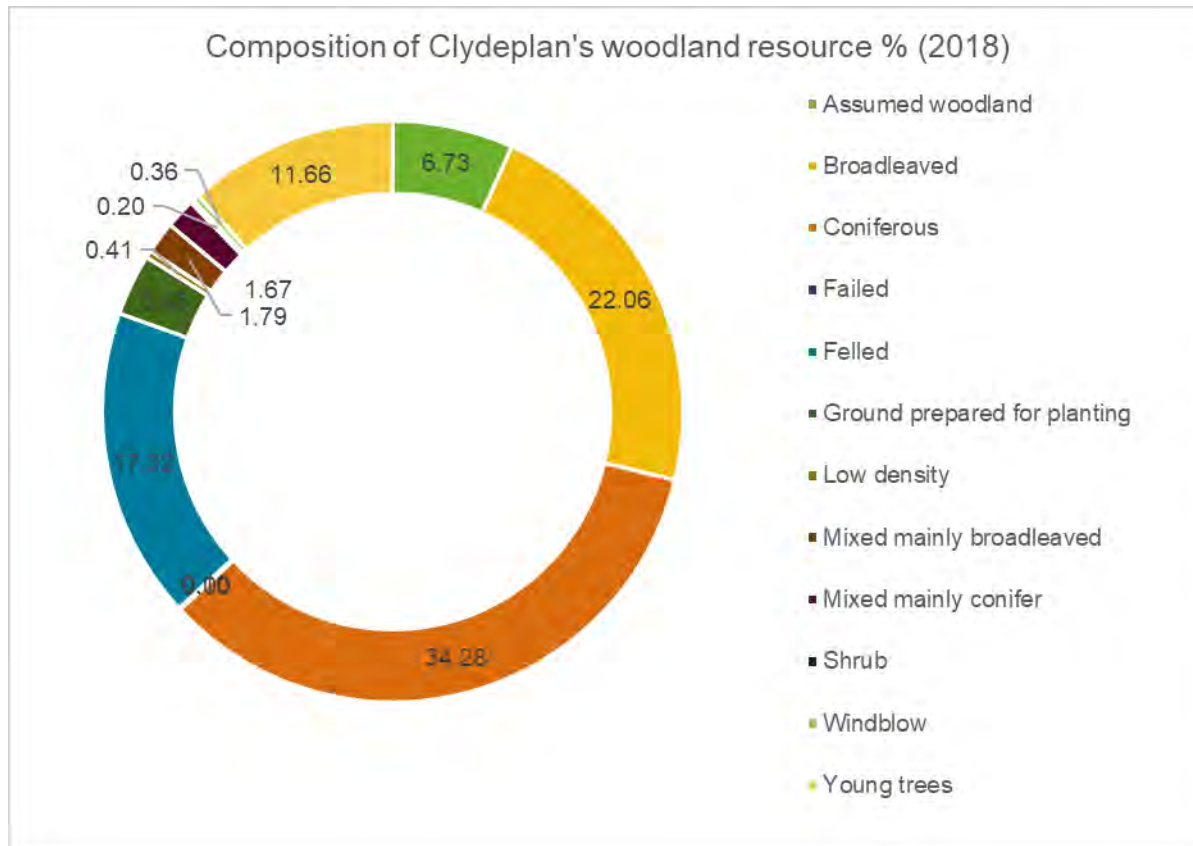
<sup>15</sup> Assumed woodland: The supplied grant scheme and FC new planting polygons have been attributed as 'assumed woodland' as these areas have not been checked against the latest images and will be monitored in future updates and either updated to reflect forest type or removed from the dataset.

| Category (NFI 2018 Woodland category) | Area (ha)        | % of Clydeplan area | % of total woodland area |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Felled                                | 9,840.95         | 2.95                | 17.32                    |
| Ground prepared for planting          | 1,947.47         | 0.58                | 3.43                     |
| Low density                           | 230.63           | 0.07                | 0.41                     |
| Mixed mainly broadleaved              | 1,016.54         | 0.30                | 1.79                     |
| Mixed mainly conifer                  | 947.07           | 0.28                | 1.67                     |
| Shrub                                 | 113.60           | 0.03                | 0.20                     |
| Uncertain                             | 1.24             | 0.00                | 0.00                     |
| Windblow                              | 204.95           | 0.06                | 0.36                     |
| Young trees                           | 6,625.72         | 1.98                | 11.66                    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>56,828.13</b> | <b>17.02</b>        | <b>100.00</b>            |

Table 3.2: FCS Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (2014)

| Category (NFI 2018 Woodland category) | Area (ha)        | % of Clydeplan area | % of total woodland area |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Native woodland                       | 11,395.96        | 3.41                | 81.98                    |
| Nearly-native woodland                | 1,565.81         | 0.47                | 11.26                    |
| Plantations on Ancient Woodland site  | 554.47           | 0.17                | 3.99                     |
| Open land habitat                     | 385.43           | 0.12                | 2.77                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>13,901.67</b> | <b>4.16</b>         | <b>100.00</b>            |

Diagram 3.1: Composition of Clydeplan's woodland resource



## Woodland Types

### Urban woodlands

**3.11** As noted above, trees and woodlands are an important aspect of the region's urban areas. These features are key aspects of the quality, character and distinctiveness of the region's historic towns and villages. Historically, extensive networks of new woodlands were created in parallel with the establishment of New Towns at Cumbernauld, and East Kilbride and the new community at Erskine, and these have matured into an important component of the region's woodland resource.

**3.12** The region has already benefitted significantly from efforts to expand and positively manage woodlands in and around urban areas, through the work of the Central Scotland Forest, now the Central Scotland Green Network and Scottish Forestry 'Woods in and Around Towns' (WIAT) programme. Successes of projects such as the Bishop's Estate Woods, bringing a substantial area of woodland on the edge of Easterhouse into positive management, improving habitat, access networks and reconnecting communities to

environmental assets, illustrate the potential that the region's woods have in contributing to regeneration.

**3.13** WIAT funding, delivered through the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) and the Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) funds of the SRDP 2014-2020, should be utilised to assist in bringing more urban woodlands into active management. Following the UK's departure from Europe future funding will continue to be provided from the Scottish Government.

**3.14** An urban forest approach should be adopted in the urban landscape zones. Within this approach urban trees are considered of equal priority to grey infrastructure such as roads and services with the urban forest as a whole seen as a valuable asset. Designed along an ecological basis, and considered as a continuous resource regardless of owner, this approach could provide Clydeplan Local Authorities with a significant opportunity to maximise the social, environmental and economic benefits that urban trees provide. Looking holistically at the urban forests and its associated benefits would allow for consideration of the broader issues of disease, climate change and population growth that can be influenced by, and that can affect, an urban forest.



### Mixed woodlands

**3.15** The Clydeplan area's mixed woodland resource is primarily located in the region's parks, gardens and designed landscapes, and in amenity planting associated with transport corridors and development. There was an increase in mixed woodland creation under the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) 2014-2020.

### Native woodlands

**3.16** The native woodland networks of the Clyde Valley and its tributaries are internationally important for their biodiversity value, as some of the most intact – and dramatically located – ancient and semi-natural woodlands in lowland Scotland. Similarly, being located within an hour's drive for the majority of the nation's population, they are highly accessible. They also incorporate areas of high cultural heritage value, taking in important areas of ancient wood pasture at Hamilton High Parks (in the Chatelherault Country Park). Across the region, riparian networks hold a significant proportion of the higher quality native woodland resources – for example in the foothills of the Campsie Fells and the Kilsyth and Kilpatrick Hills. However, outside of these relatively undisturbed areas, much of the region's native woodlands are often both highly fragmented and relatively small in size. Joining up the resource and improving the resilience of core areas will remain a priority. The location of native woodlands is illustrated in Figure 3.2.

**3.17** Key challenges to native woodlands include diseases such as ash dieback, which is being tackled by the Ash Dieback Risk Group (Scotland). Research<sup>16</sup> identifies the likely widespread damage and death of ash trees throughout Scotland within the period of this strategy.

### Energy forests

**3.18** A range of research has been undertaken into the potential for biomass planting to contribute to temporary greening solutions, and bioremediation of vacant and derelict land – for example for East Renfrewshire Council<sup>17</sup>, Renfrewshire Council<sup>18</sup> and by Forest Research through the Central Scotland Green Network. Reporting on the Forest Research work will provide valuable insights into the potential of the approach to contribute to greening the region's significant vacant and derelict land resource.

**3.19** Management of existing woodlands, and waste wood from productive forests, currently comprise the majority of locally produced and used biomass. As larger commercial and

public sector users increasingly adopt biomass heat and power technology, the portion of the market is likely to continue to grow. Growing wood domestically to use as a fuel offers a sustainable alternative to burning fossil fuels with the development of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) technology. Although it is recognised that this technology is still in the early stages of development, and the energy costs of transport and processing must also be taken into account. Additionally, there are air quality impacts associated with biomass stoves and boilers.

### Softwood forests

**3.20** The area has a very extensive softwood resource, concentrated on the moorland plateaux and hills around the edges of the city region, most notably in the Southern Uplands, Lowther Hills, on Eaglesham Moor, the Slamannan Plateau and in the Campsie Fells and Kilsyth Hills. These forests make an important contribution to the rural area, as well as contributing to a sustainable timber supply to meet the needs of Scotland's growing timber processing sector.

**3.21** Many of these woodlands are reaching the end of their rotation and present opportunities for improving stand resilience and sustainability, access for recreational users and enhanced biodiversity and landscape values.

**3.22** Over the past decade wind energy developments such as the Whitelee and Clyde wind farms – respectively the largest and second-largest onshore wind farms in the UK – have resulted in significant losses of woodland. As a consequence of this threat, and Scotland's climate change commitments, the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal will ensure that, where consent for such projects is granted, appropriate compensatory planting is provided.

<sup>16</sup> Forestry Commission Scotland (2013) An assessment of Ash Dieback in Scotland. Available at: <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/362-an-assessment-of-the-potential-impacts-of-ash-dieback-in-scotland/viewdocument>

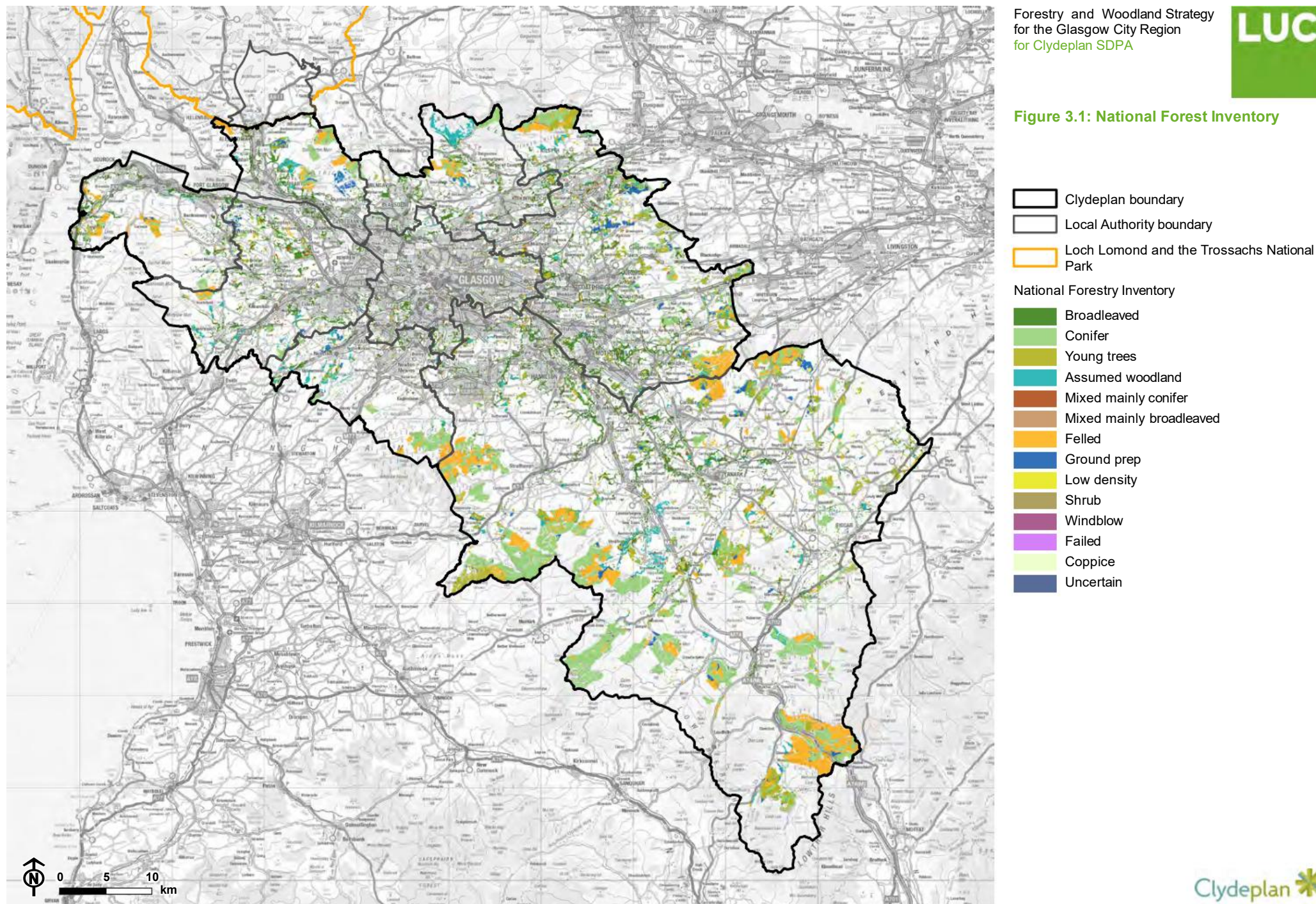
<sup>17</sup> Ironside Farrar, 2012. *Green Network Biomass, Phytoremediation and Woodland Creation* [pdf]. Available at:

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7240&p=0> [Accessed 22 June 2015]

<sup>18</sup> In May 2015, CSGN awarded funding to Renfrewshire Council to quantify and evaluate the wood fuel biomass available from the Council's existing and potential future woodlands.



Figure 3.1: National Forest Inventory





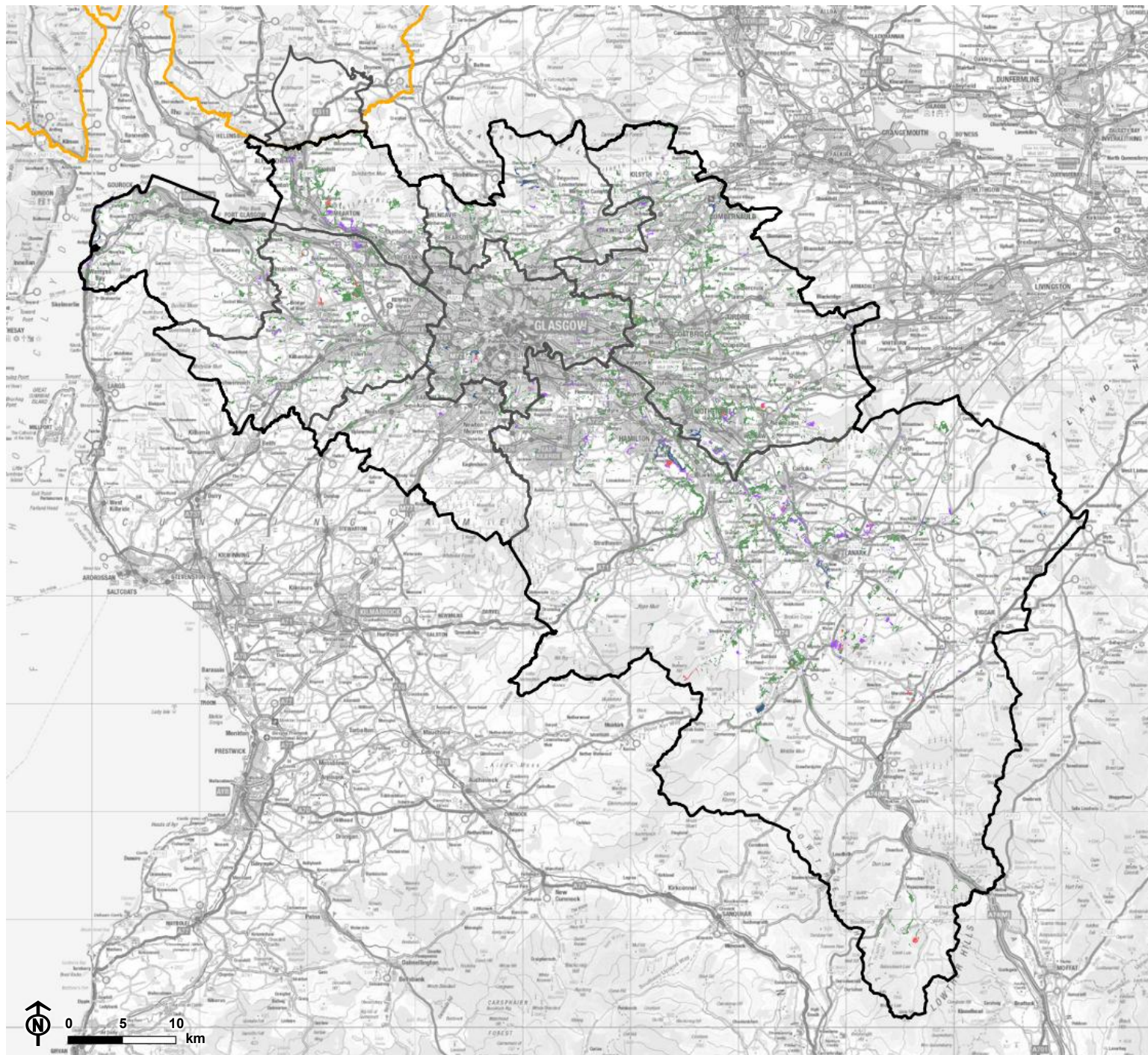









Figure 3.2: Native Woodland Survey of Scotland

-  Clydeplan boundary
-  Local Authority boundary
-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

**Native Woodland Survey of Scotland**

-  Native woodland
-  Nearly-native woodland
-  Open land habitat
-  PAWS

## Chapter 4

### Climate Change

#### Introduction

**4.1** Climate change projections suggest that the Clydeplan area will experience milder and wetter winters; warmer and drier summers; rising sea levels; and, an increase in the frequency and intensity of storm events (UK Climate Projections, 2018). Clydeplan's contribution to tackling climate change through woodlands will involve mitigating the effects of climate change by increasing carbon sequestration; reducing carbon emissions; encouraging the use of woodfuel as a substitute for fossil fuels; promoting the wider use of timber in construction; and adapting to changes in the climate by increasing woodland cover in flood catchments and urban areas, and promoting sustainable and lower impact woodland management.

#### Policy context

Climate change requires urgent action and is high on the policy agenda.

**4.2** In early 2019, the UK and Scottish Governments both declared a **climate emergency**, with the Scottish Government amending the Climate Change Bill to have net zero emissions by 2045.

**4.3** Local authorities within the Clydeplan area also declared a climate emergency, including Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow.<sup>19</sup> Glasgow City Council seeks to create new interim targets for Scotland by reducing emissions by 70% by 2030 and by 90% by 2040. It is likely that these reductions would likely be driven by areas such as transport, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and seek to establish a Climate Emergency Working Group.<sup>20</sup> North Lanarkshire request Climate Emergency funding to boost resilience planning and preparedness with partners such as Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire Service as there will be a growing risk of spontaneous forest and moorland wild fires, flash flooding and catastrophic weather events.<sup>21</sup> South Lanarkshire Council passed a motion on 25th September 2019 to tackle the threat of climate change, meet or exceed national targets for zero emissions by 2045 and establish a new committee on Climate Change and Sustainability.

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<sup>19</sup> As listed on [www.climateemergency.uk](http://www.climateemergency.uk)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/glasgow/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.climateemergency.uk/blog/north-lanarkshire/>



**4.4** The **Climate Change Plan**<sup>22</sup> provides an overview of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan for the period 2018-2032. It sets out the actions to be taken for Scotland to meet its ambitious climate change targets. The current plan outlines that by 2032, Scotland will have reduced its emissions by 66%, relative to the baseline. The plan highlights the role of land use and forestry in achieving this, recognising that by 2020 this sector could be a carbon sink of approximately 6.9MT of CO<sub>2</sub>, whilst also providing ecosystem services such as flood management and biodiversity enhancement.

**4.5** **Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme**<sup>23</sup> sets out Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals to tackle the climate change impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Risk Assessment as required by section 53 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

**4.6** The overarching aim of the Programme is "to increase the resilience of Scotland's people, environment, and economy to the impacts of a changing climate". The Programme is structured around seven outcomes.

**4.7** Woodland and forestry are set out beneath Outcome 3 *Our inclusive and sustainable economy is flexible, adaptable and responsive to the changing climate*, and the sub outcome, that Scotland's businesses based on natural resources are informed and adaptable to climate change. This includes taking forward the priorities of the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, the role of woodland in agriculture, woodland creation and wood product use, and the role of woodland and forestry in climate change adaptation. Under Outcome 5, *Our natural environment is valued, enjoyed, protected and enhanced and has increased resilience to climate change* the ecosystem services provided by woodland are explored, again reflecting the priorities of the Scottish Forestry Strategy.

## Reduce the forestry sector's emissions and contribute to mitigation measures

**4.8** Trees and woodlands have a key role to play in helping to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The Strategy will increase the contribution of trees and woodlands to climate change mitigation in the following ways:

- Increasing the total extent of tree cover across the Clydeplan area and, as a result, increasing the amount

of carbon absorbed from the atmosphere and locked up in timber;

- Encourage measures to reduce the use of fossil fuels within the forestry sector;
- Developing the biomass and wood fibre sector as a source of low carbon fuel for heating and power generation;
- Encouraging the use of timber as a sustainable building material, particularly where this reduces the need for carbon intensive materials such as steel, concrete or materials transported long distances; and,
- Accommodating renewable energy infrastructure associated within existing woodlands and forests, where other constraints allow.

## Increasing carbon sequestration

**4.9** Increasing the amount of carbon sequestered by woodland is a national priority, set out in the [Scottish Government's Rationale for Woodland Expansion, and reflected in the Scottish Climate Change Plan \(2018\)](#).<sup>24</sup>

Forests and woodlands are widely recognised for their ability to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and store it in woody biomass, soils and litter. Although research suggests that fast growing conifers may absorb carbon most rapidly, it is important that new woodlands also contribute to wider objectives for habitat, landscape or recreational benefit. Increasing the extent of native woodland can create longer lasting carbon stores as well as helping habitats adapt to the changing climate.

**4.10** Protecting the carbon resource is a national priority, expressed in the Scottish Government's [Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal](#) which introduces a formal, cross-cutting presumption in favour of woodland retention; sets the policy tests against which proposals are measured; and highlights the need for appropriate compensatory planting.

**4.11** While woodlands lock up a substantial amount of carbon (approximately 910 million tonnes), Scotland's peatlands are our most significant carbon store – holding an estimated 1,600 million tonnes of carbon.<sup>25</sup> Therefore protecting and, where possible, restoring this resource is of strategic national importance<sup>26</sup>. Peatland restoration is a priority within the Scottish Climate Change Plan in terms of carbon

<sup>22</sup> Scottish Government. 2018. *CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN Third Report on Proposals and Policies 2018-2032 Summary Document*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

<sup>23</sup> Scottish Government, 2019. *Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

<sup>24</sup> Scottish Government (2018) Climate Change Plan Third report on proposals and policies 2018-2032 (RPP3). <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-climate-change-plan-third-report-proposals-policies-2018/>

<sup>25</sup> Figures from Scottish Government (2013) *Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the emissions reduction targets 2013-2027 – Report on the proposals and policies* A conservative estimate of the carbon stored in Scotland's woodlands is approximately 910million tonnes of carbon (based on an average of 700t/C per hectare) – although forest soils will also store a significant amount of carbon, in some cases more than in the trees themselves.

<sup>26</sup> Reflected in Scottish Government policy, including the Land Use Strategy, and in the recent document *Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027*, Section 9.

sequestration. Scottish Natural Heritage has provided a framework for recognising, communicating, and where appropriate, quantifying the benefits of healthy peatlands through Scotland's National Peatland Plan. The Plan also marshals the knowledge, skills, incentives and funding to improve the condition of those peatlands which are damaged or degraded. Peatland restoration can include the removal of plantation woodland or scrub that has become established after peatland loses its hydrological integrity.

**4.12** Blanket bog is concentrated in the moors and upland areas of Clyde Muirshiel, South Lanarkshire, the Slamannan plateau and the Kilpatrick Hills. Widespread but fragmentary areas of raised bog, such as the Black Loch SAC and North Shotts Mosses SAC, are also highly sensitive to woodland.

**4.13** For peatland and high carbon soils that are not covered by national and international designations there is the likelihood that there will be locations within the potential and preferred areas that contain undesignated peatlands, as the SNH Carbon and Peatland map has not been used in the mapping to identify 'Potential' areas. In some local authority areas these resources will be identified as local nature conservation sites and therefore included in the 'potential' category. For other areas of peatland and high carbon soils such as the blanket bog on the Campsie Fells the role of the UK Forestry Standard and Forestry EIA are therefore highlighted as playing an important role in protecting these soil types at the site-specific level.

**The UK Forestry Standard requires the avoidance of peat soils over 50cm in depth, and on sites that could compromise the hydrology of adjacent bog habitats, when establishing new woodlands. Site-specific assessment of proposals is critical in determining peat depths on site, and whether woodland creation is appropriate.**

**Scotland's National Peatland Plan sets out the priorities for conserving and responsibly managing our peat soils. Following the Ramsar Convention and Soil Survey of Scotland definitions, it applies to soils with an organic layer or layers greater than 50cm deep from the soil surface, and which contain more than 60% organic matter.**

**4.14** Policies to increase carbon sequestration include:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| CC<br>1.1 | Work with land managers to highlight the significance of peat soils and encourage restoration. |
|-----------|--|

#### Contributing to emissions reduction

**4.15** In total the Clydeplan local authorities emit approximately 11,000 kilotonnes of carbon dioxide per annum, representing around 15% of the Scottish total. Measures to reduce carbon emissions will include:

- Improved energy efficiency designed to reduce the demand for fossil fuels;
- The substitution of fossil based fuels with low carbon and renewable energy sources;
- Initiatives to increase the amount of carbon absorbed and retained within the environment.
- Woodland and forestry should contribute to all three types of response.

#### Energy efficiency in the forestry sector

**4.16** The forestry and timber industries are major users of fossil fuels at every stage of the process from planting, through harvesting and transporting to processing and use. Reducing the forestry sector's reliance on such fuels is critical to maximise the contribution to climate change mitigation in line with the Scottish Government Land Use Strategy<sup>27</sup>. This will require monitoring and auditing, and the use and proper maintenance of the most efficient forestry technologies.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| CC<br>1.2 | Support the development of energy-efficiency measures in Clydeplan's forestry and timber sectors.   |
| CC<br>1.3 | Promote the use and adoption of fuel-efficient plant and machinery, making links between suppliers, existing users and local contractors to highlight the benefits. |

#### Developing the biomass and wood fibre sector

**4.17** Supporting the development of woody biomass as a source of low carbon fuel is key means of displacing non-renewable energy sources<sup>28</sup>. Key priorities include:

- Bringing existing woodland into positive management to increase the supply of logs and wood chips;

<sup>27</sup> Scottish Government, 2016. *Getting the best from our land: A land use strategy for Scotland 2016-2021*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government

<sup>28</sup> It must be noted that woodfuel can only be considered to be 'low carbon' where the equivalent number of trees felled for fuel are replanted to reabsorb the carbon emitted through combustion.

Policies for the biomass sector are dealt with in Chapter 6 of this Strategy

### Contributing to other forms of renewable energy development

**4.18** Forests and woodlands may also be able to accommodate other types of renewable energy development, such as wind and hydro developments.

**4.19** Where development is proposed, the Scottish Government [Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal](#) includes a strong presumption in favour of protecting woodland resources and the removal of woodland should only be permitted where significant and well defined additional public benefits would be delivered.

**4.20** Where woodland removal is proposed, compensatory planting should take place within the region. The type, siting and design of new woodlands may differ from those being removed but should reflect the guidance set out in the above Policy and in this Strategy.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| CC 1.4 | Where woodland removal in connection with development is proposed, and meets the requirements of the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal, work with developers to ensure that compensatory planting is delivered in line with the priorities and spatial guidance provided by this Strategy. |
| CC 1.5 | Ensure that reductions in woodland cover arising from restructuring and development are compensated within the Clydeplan area, wherever possible.  |

### Adapt to the predicted effects of climate change

**4.21** The creation of new tree cover can help us adapt to some of the challenges that will result from the changing climate. Equally important is the need to manage existing tree cover to increase its resilience to climate change.

**4.22** Climate change may change species choice to ensure it can cope with the effects, and it may also change the management techniques, such as continuous cover. Key threats associated with climate change include the spread of pests and disease such as Chalara ash dieback and the larch pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. Additional future threats are also being monitored and future species choices need to reflect the best available information at the time.

**4.23** Woodland can also support adaptation for other aspects of the ecosystem, for example riparian woodland can have a

regulating effect on water temperature and minimise flood risk in a river catchment as a whole.

**4.24** The Strategy promotes climate change adaptation in the following ways:

- Contributing to nature-based flood management; and,
- Increasing the resilience of Clydeplan's woodlands by:
  - Expanding habitat networks;
  - Increasing species diversity
  - Protecting the quality of urban environments;
  - Protecting historic and semi-natural woodlands; and,
  - Adapting forest management practices.

### Contributing to sustainable water and flood management

**4.25** Changes in rainfall patterns are likely to result in flooding on a more frequent basis. The National Flood Risk Assessment has identified that there are 21<sup>29</sup> potentially vulnerable areas (PVA), covering the majority of the Clydeplan area. The Clydeplan area falls into the Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District. The largest potential source of flood risk in this district is from surface water, which is closely followed by river flood risk. The FWS will support the actions set out for each PVA, particularly where this supports woodland planting as a contribution to natural flood management.

**4.26** Woodland planting needs to consider the impact of the works on flood risk to both the site and any downstream receptors. This includes the impact on flows, sediment transport, capacity of culverts and potential blockage of downstream structures need to be considered. Monitoring before, during, and after works may need to be implemented and flood risk should be considered from ground preparation to tree maturity and commencement of operations.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www2.sepa.org.uk/fmstrategies/clyde-loch-lomond.html>

Table 4.1: Potentially Vulnerable Areas by Local Authority area

| Local Authority     | Number of Potentially Vulnerable Areas | Potentially Vulnerable Area Reference Number  |
|---------------------|--|---|
| East Dunbartonshire | 2                                      | 11/04 (River Kelvin), 11/05 (Glasgow Coastal)   |
| East Renfrewshire   | 3                                      | 11/12 (Black Cart Water Glasgow Coastal), 11/13 (White Cart Water Glasgow Coastal), 12/06   |
| Glasgow City        | 7                                      | 11/04 (River Kelvin), 11/05 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/13 (White Cart Water Glasgow Coastal), 11/14 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/15 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/16 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/17 (River Clyde) |
| Inverclyde          | 4                                      | 11/08 (Inverclyde Coastal), 11/09 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/11 (River Gryfe), 11/12 (Black Cart Water Glasgow Coastal)  |
| North Lanarkshire   | 5                                      | 11/04 (River Kelvin), 11/17 (River Clyde), 11/18 (River Clyde), 11/19 (River Clyde), 11/20 (River Clyde)  |
| Renfrewshire        | 5                                      | 11/09 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/10 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/11 (River Gryfe), 11/12 (Black Cart Water Glasgow Coastal), 11/13 (White Cart Water Glasgow Coastal)                               |
| South Lanarkshire   | 4                                      | 11/13 (White Cart Water Glasgow Coastal), 11/14 (Glasgow Coastal), 11/17 (River Clyde), 13/07 (River Tweed)   |
| West Dunbartonshire | 3                                      | 11/01 (River Leven Dumbarton Coastal), 11/04 (River Kelvin), 11/05 (Glasgow Coastal)  |

**4.27** Developing woodlands in the middle and upper catchments of the area's major rivers, including the Clyde, Kelvin, Gryfe, and the White and Black Cart Waters, could play an important role in attenuating flood events through a number of mechanisms including: direct absorption of rainfall through leaves and root systems; improved infiltration of water into soils; and slowing flows of surface water and increasing catchment response times. This can also help to reduce peak flows, reducing the risk or severity of flooding, and potentially reducing or offsetting the need for engineered flood defences. In addition, trees can help reduce soil erosion and stabilise steep slopes if concentrated along river valleys and in upland parts of the Clydeplan area, reducing the risk of landslides when soils become waterlogged. A non-wooded buffer strip should be provided adjacent to watercourses to reduce the potential for blockages from in-channel debris.

**4.28** Trees, woodlands and greenspaces in urban areas can also play a key role in helping to deliver sustainable water management in the form of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), a regulatory requirement for surface water management in new development. In addition, where woodland can make a substantive contribution to the delivery of the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategy Drainage Partnership – designated as a National Development in NPF3 – this should be a priority.

#### Forestry and flood management

The EU Floods Directive is transposed into Scots law as the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

The Act introduces a more integrated and sustainable approach to understanding and planning for flood risk at a national and local level. It conveys significant responsibilities on to Scottish public bodies – including local authorities and Scottish Forestry – for managing flood risk through their operations and decision-making functions.

For forestry, the emphasis on natural flood management – working with nature and using natural hydrological features in the landscape to slow peak flows, store floodwater and lengthen catchment response times – to mitigate risk to infrastructure, assets and communities is particularly significant.



|        |  |
|--------|--|
| CC 2.1 | Promote the role of woodland in terms of sustainable flood management, prioritising Potentially Vulnerable Areas identified by SEPA.   |
| CC 2.2 | Increase awareness of the importance of woodlands and trees in contributing to sustainable flood management and the stabilisation of slopes.   |
| CC 2.3 | Work in partnership with the relevant authorities to identify opportunities for better management of existing woodland or planting of new woodland to aid natural flood management at a catchment scale. |

Systems (SuDS), protect the quality of urban environments by minimising surface water run-off and flood risk, in addition to providing attractive planting features and increased biodiversity. They contribute to the wider strategic green network, connecting people with nature close to their homes as well as providing opportunities for contributing towards placemaking objectives. Urban woodland also brings wider benefits to air quality and biodiversity.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| CC 2.5 | Promote the role of trees and woodlands in improving urban microclimates. |
|--------|---|

### Increasing the resilience of Clydeplan's woodlands

#### Expanding habitat networks

**4.29** Habitat connectivity is crucial in enabling species to adapt and be more resilient by establishing larger and healthier populations which are able to relocate in response to the changing climate. There are also likely to be impacts on movement of animals and the prevalence of pests and disease because of a changed climate.

**4.30** Well-planned woodland creation can play a key role in enhancing habitat connectivity, boosting resilience and forging new links where connections are currently lacking. The Integrated Habitat Network (IHN) datasets are a useful tool in identifying areas where new woodland can make a contribution to physical and functional connectivity. Similarly, they are valuable in highlighting important non-woodland habitat types that also require support, assisting land managers and decision-makers identify and develop optimal uses.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| CC 2.4 | Promote the use of Integrated Habitat Network data in parallel with this Strategy to inform land management decisions. |
|--------|--|

#### Protecting historic and semi-natural woodlands

**4.33** Trees and woodlands make an important contribution to the character of the many historic gardens and designed landscapes found in the Clydeplan area. The effects of climate change could impact on ancient trees, features such as avenues and parkland trees, and on wider policy woodlands. Within the wider landscape, climate change could result in the further loss of farm woodlands, field boundary trees and shelter belts, many of which make an important contribution to the character of the area. Native and semi-natural woodlands, such as those along the Clyde valley between Lanark and Hamilton, could also suffer stress as the climate changes and pests and diseases become more common.

**4.34** Maintaining the health and resilience of native and semi-natural woodlands and individual trees is critical in securing their contribution to sense of place, landscape character and their habitat and heritage values. Positive management, including planned programmes of replanting using like-for-like replacements particularly for specimen trees, will help to ensure that they are resilient to the changing climate.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| CC 2.6 | Identify vulnerable gardens, designed landscapes and policy woodlands and promote succession planning to maintain their heritage value and significance. |
|--------|--|

#### Protecting the quality of urban environments

**4.31** Trees and woodlands can play an important role in maintaining the quality of urban environments as the climate changes by improving air quality and providing shade and temperature regulation helping to combat the 'urban heat island' effect. According to Climate Ready Clyde<sup>30</sup>, Glasgow City centre already has one of the most significant 'urban heat island' effects in the UK.

**4.32** Trees, woodlands and greenspaces in urban areas, including green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage

#### Adapting forest management practices

**4.35** The effects of climate change are likely to necessitate a range of changes in the ways that woodlands are planned and managed to ensure that both the woods themselves and their attendant industries are resilient to change.

<sup>30</sup> Adaptation Scotland, 2016. *Climate Ready Clyde* [pdf]. Available at: <https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/get-involved/our-projects/climate-ready-clyde> [Accessed on 06 November 2019]

**Table 4.2: Climate change impacts on trees and forestry**

| Effect type   | Impacts on trees   | Impacts on forestry practice   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Weather</b>  |  |  |
| Hotter, drier summers   | <p>Increased tree mortality for drought-prone / shallower-rooting species</p> <p>Failure or impaired establishment for new planting</p> <p>Stress increasing susceptibility to pathogens</p> <p>Increased incidence of forest fires</p>  | <p>Potential need for irrigation (although likely to be impractical)</p> <p>Need for drought-resistant species/provenance</p> <p>Increased wind erosion of exposed soils</p> <p>Need for increased resilience planning for fire</p>  |
| Warmer, wetter winters  | <p>Longer growing season</p> <p>Reduction in number of frost days</p> <p>Greater soil instability due to water-logging</p> <p>On wetter sites, waterlogging causing root damage</p> <p>Increased pathogen threat, due to more favourable conditions</p>  | <p>Faster growth of timber, potentially affecting strength and end-use?</p> <p>Potential reduction in frost damage</p> <p>Uncertainty making planning of operations more difficult; increased waterlogging reducing number of available working days</p> <p>Increased soil damage from machinery activity</p> <p>Increased importance of sediment management to prevent polluting run-off</p> <p>Increased need for good silviculture, including thinning, in order to reduce the likelihood and impact of pathogen attack</p> |
| Increased storminess  | More frequent, and more severe, wind-throw   | <p>Increased need for proactive management; identifying and removing potentially unstable trees</p> <p>Increased risk associated with woodland in exposed locations</p> <p>Adopting CCF and other approaches to improve wind-fastness</p> <p>Increased need for use of best practice approaches to silviculture, including well-planned in-crop drainage</p>   |
| Increased uncertainty   |  | <p>Long-term planning needs to reflect this uncertainty to manage risk</p> <p>Length of rotation and timing of thinning etc. for timber species may need to adapt</p>  |
| <b>Pests and diseases</b>   |  |  |
| Changes in range / distribution of insect pests (due to lessening of climatic controls) | <p>Increased windthrow potentially increasing available deadwood habitat for beetle and weevil population build-up</p> <p>Additional stress factors increasing tree susceptibility to attack</p> <p>Increased potential for multiple pathogen attack (e.g. by bark beetles and defoliating caterpillars)</p> | <p>Potential need to adapt management approach and future woodland structure to reduce favourable conditions for pests</p> <p>Increased use of pesticides?</p>   |
| Weather-related changes in susceptibility to pathogen attack                            | Warmer, wetter winters improving conditions for fungal pathogens (e.g. red band needle)  |  |

| Effect type   | Impacts on trees   | Impacts on forestry practice  |
|---|--|---|
|   | blight, <i>Chalara fraxinea</i> / <i>Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus</i> )<br><br>Higher summer temperatures and reduction in soil frosts increasing damage as a result of <i>Phytophthora</i> infection |   |
| Reduced winter mortality for mammalian pests (particularly deer)                          | Increased browsing damage, particularly in young woodlands   | Need for additional fencing / protection                                      |
| Invasion by additional non-native pests and diseases                                      |  | Planning, and close partnership working between agencies and the sector       |
| Increased competition from ground and shrub layers in young woodland (e.g. rank brambles) | Difficulties in establishment, particularly in areas of natural regeneration   | More active management of natural regeneration to ensure proper establishment |

**4.36** For productive forestry, climate change could affect the choice of tree species and might mean that higher and more exposed sites become more vulnerable to storm damage. It has been proposed that traditional approaches to harvesting, based on the clear-felling of larger blocks of forest may – on suitable sites – be replaced by other techniques, including ‘continuous cover’ forestry based on the selective felling of trees within a woodland. This can help to create a more varied woodland structure and should reduce the risk of erosion.

**4.37** The changing climate could also bring some positive effects for productive forests, by increasing the length of the growing season, increasing productivity and allowing woodland to be planted in areas that are currently less suitable. However, establishment and management practices are likely to require some changes to ensure that the forestry industry and woodlands themselves remain sustainable in the face of changing climatic conditions and patterns of weather.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| CC 2.7 | Ensure forestry plantations are managed using the most sustainable option with consideration given to continuous cover forestry techniques. |
| CC 2.8 | Promote positive and proactive management of key tree species and woodlands to improve their resilience to climate change.                  |
| CC 2.9 | Support the development of a Clydeplan Ash Dieback Action Plan  |

## Chapter 5

### Expand and Manage

#### Introduction

**5.1** Creating and managing woodland is an intrinsically long-term activity. Decisions made today will affect the environment and resources available to future generations. This part of the Strategy sets out how woodlands could be managed, enhanced and expanded to achieve the Vision.

**5.2** To be successful and sustainable, woodland needs to be planned for and managed in a way that is well integrated with other uses of, and aspirations for, the region's finite land resources. A key role of this Strategy is therefore to encourage new planting and management activities to areas where benefits can be optimised. Equally, there may be instances where existing woodland is not the optimal land use, and the Strategy provides guidance to aid decision-making and steer appropriate compensatory planting to locations where a wider range of benefits can be delivered.<sup>31</sup>

#### The current situation

**5.3** Woodland in the Clydeplan area accounts for around 18% of the total land area – broadly in line with the Scottish average.<sup>32</sup>

**5.4** The majority of the region's woodland is non-native conifers established mainly during the 1970s and 1980s. Though rates of woodland creation have slowed in recent years, the Forestry Grant Scheme contains specific, targeted measures to support woodland creation in the Clydeplan area.

**5.5** Major programmes of environmental enhancement, most notably the Central Scotland Forest and, more recently, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Central Scotland Green Networks, have provided an impetus for the creation of high quality, accessible and biodiverse woodland networks close to where people live. The Clydeplan area provides ample opportunities to improve networks of woodland within the urban environment whilst supporting the more 'traditional' forestry industries concentrated in the more rural parts of the region.

**5.6** The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Blueprint is a framework for the creation of a strategic Green Network

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<sup>31</sup> In line with the Scottish Government *Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal* – a strong presumption against woodland removal exists except where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits.

<sup>32</sup> 59,798ha / 17.9% of land area at the time of writing, in 2020, based on National Forest Inventory data.

for the benefit of people and wildlife in Glasgow City Region. This incorporates the fundamental functions of a Green Network:

- an Access Network - facilitating the off-road movement of people between communities through greenspace
- a Habitat Network - facilitating the movement of wildlife through the landscape.

**5.7** The Blueprint identifies for both Networks:

- existing Green Network assets
- where protection and enhancements are required
- where there are gaps in the networks
- opportunities to address those gaps.

**5.8** Forestry and woodland planting have a key role to play in supporting the development of not only woodland networks but the protection, management and creation of non-woodland habitat and networks within woodland design plans. The data that underpins the Blueprint provides a rich resource that can be drawn upon to inform those opportunities.

**5.9** Other current actions include the South of Scotland Woodland Creation Initiative which will support woodland expansion and the Clyde Climate Forest which will support woodland planting to deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits to the Glasgow City Region. Woodland planting should support the aims of the Clyde Climate Forest.

#### Clyde Climate Forest

The Clyde Climate Forest will harness the current enthusiasm for tree planting and associated resources and will seek to channel them into worthwhile and well-considered tree planting projects within the River Clyde catchment that deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits to the Glasgow City Region. The Clyde Climate forest will have three main elements:

Canopy: Urban Canopy Cover

Connectivity: Regional Woodland Habitat Network

Carbon: New Forests on Farmland and vacant and derelict land

The Strategy has four overarching objectives to help expand the region's woodland resource and improve its management:

- Encourage the creation of woodland of an appropriate nature, scale and composition to deliver the Strategy's priorities.
- Promote active management of the Clydeplan area's woodland resource.

- Promote high standards of woodland design.
- Make a sustainable contribution to the delivery of the Scottish Government's national targets for new woodland creation per annum.

**5.10** Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 identifies a commitment to increasing the forest and woodland creation targets from 10,000ha per year in 2018, to 12,000ha per year from 2020/21, 14,000ha per year from 2022/23 up to 15,000ha per year from 2024/25. These objectives cut across all of the Strategy's other aims and objectives and should be at the heart of all woodland-related activities in the region. The following sections of the Strategy set out:

The types, appropriate locations and scales of new woodland that can best deliver multiple benefits and help the region deliver a sustainable contribution to national woodland expansion targets.

- The key management priorities for existing woodlands.
- The main issues that should be taken into account when planning and designing new woodlands or managing existing resources.

**5.11 Chapter 9 of this Strategy provides spatially-specific guidance on local issues and opportunities, and where new woodland can add social, economic and environmental value.**

### Encourage the creation of woodlands of an appropriate nature, scale and composition to deliver the Strategy's priorities

#### Future extent of woodland

##### National objectives

**5.12** It is the aim of the Scottish Government to encourage the creation of an additional 10,000ha of new woodland every year nationwide, increasing to 15,000ha per annum from 2024, thereby:

- helping tackle greenhouse gas emissions;
- restoring lost and degraded habitats and aiding adaptation to climate change;
- helping manage ecosystem services;
- underpinning a sustainable forest products industry;
- providing community benefits; and,

- enhancing urban areas and improving landscapes<sup>33</sup>.

**5.13** The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a key initiative across the region, particularly in and around the urban area. The CSGN identifies a range of opportunities for woodland to contribute to regeneration, improving access to quality environments and assist in local efforts to adapt to climate change.

#### Land categorisation

**5.14** Based on the recommendations in **The Right Tree in the Right Place – Planning for Forestry and Woodlands**<sup>34</sup> (2010), the Strategy will split areas with the capability to support woodland expansion into three categories with increasing levels of constraint, i.e. Preferred, Potential, and

Sensitive. In addition, areas physically unsuitable for woodland, built-up areas and existing woodland will be used in the analysis.

**5.15** Categorisation is necessarily a strategic process, giving a general impression of an area's suitability or otherwise for woodland expansion – on detailed examination there will inevitably be small areas that could readily fall into a different category. Local knowledge and data should also inform this process as not all local sensitivities are taken into account in the categorisation of areas as sensitive, potential or preferred.

**5.16** The importance of site-specific assessment of individual proposals for woodland expansion, or woodland removal, is therefore paramount.

**Table 5.1: Land categories**

| Land category     | Description   |
|-------------------|---|
| Built-up          | Settlements, within which the opportunities for woodland creation are often too small to map effectively at a strategic scale.  |
| Existing woodland | Land currently under woodland of all types.   |
| Preferred         | Land with no strategic constraints, which offers the greatest scope to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, and hence, to deliver on a very wide range of objectives.<br><br>Within preferred areas sensitivities are, in general, likely to be limited, and it should be possible to address any particular site specific issues within well-designed proposals that meet the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines.<br><br>Future woodland expansion is therefore likely to be focused on preferred areas. |
| Potential         | Land which offers potential to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, but where at least one significant sensitivity exists.<br><br>The extent to which specific proposals in potential areas will be permissible will depend on how well sensitivities can be addressed within the proposals. The design of schemes in such areas will require careful, site-specific consideration to ensure they are of an appropriate type and scale to be successfully accommodated.   |
| Sensitive         | Land on which, due to a combination of sensitivities, there is limited scope to accommodate further woodland expansion.<br><br>Limited woodland expansion is only likely to be possible within sensitive areas where it is of a scale and character which can be accommodated without significant negative impacts and/or where it would positively enhance the features of interest locally.   |
| Unsuitable        | Land physically unsuitable for the growth or management of trees. For completeness, this includes areas of inland open water.   |

**5.17** The process of developing the mapping contained in the Strategy is set out in more detail in **Appendix B**.

**5.18** The indicative potential for woodland expansion maps illustrate the general level of constraint / opportunity for

woodland expansion – not land which the Strategy proposes should be planted. It is noted that the analysis does not take full account of local constraints in particular undesignated peatland areas. Such areas may therefore be located in

<sup>33</sup> Scottish Government Rationale for Woodland Expansion, p.6

<sup>34</sup> Scottish Forestry, 2010. *The Right Tree in the Right Place – Planning for Forestry and Woodlands*. [pdf] Edinburgh: Scottish Forestry. Available at:

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc129.pdf/\\$FILE/fcfc129.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc129.pdf/$FILE/fcfc129.pdf) [Accessed 01 April 2014]

preferred and potential areas and must be taken into consideration at the site-specific assessment stage. How and where proposals for woodland management or expansion come forward will be driven by landowners' decisions, and these will be subject to a process of rigorous assessment by Scottish Forestry.

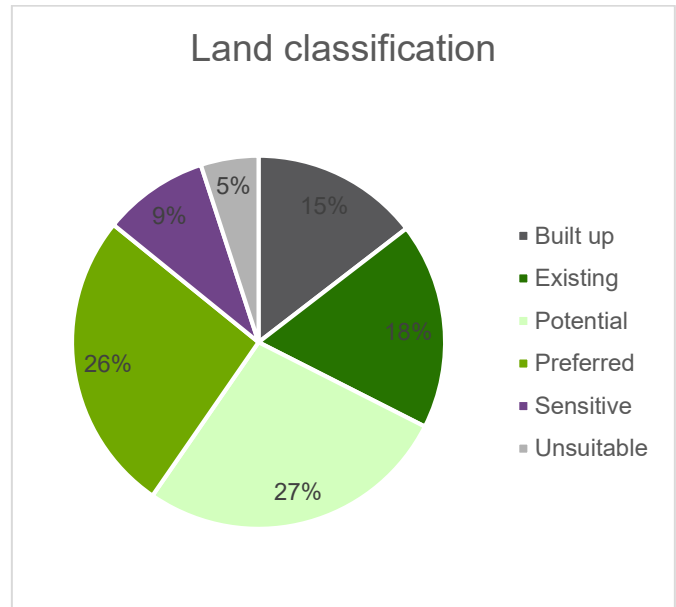
**5.19** Woodland is one of many possible uses for much of the region's land. Inclusion within the 'preferred' or 'potential' land classes should not be interpreted as precluding other viable and environmentally acceptable land uses.

#### Potential for expansion

**5.20** Figure 5.1 indicates the level of potential for woodland expansion across the region. The map requires careful interpretation and does not illustrate the areas that will, should or should not, be planted. Instead, it depicts the broad level of environmental sensitivity of the region to new woodland of all types.

**5.21** There is significant potential to accommodate new woodland within the region – with over half of the region's land area assessed as having some capacity.

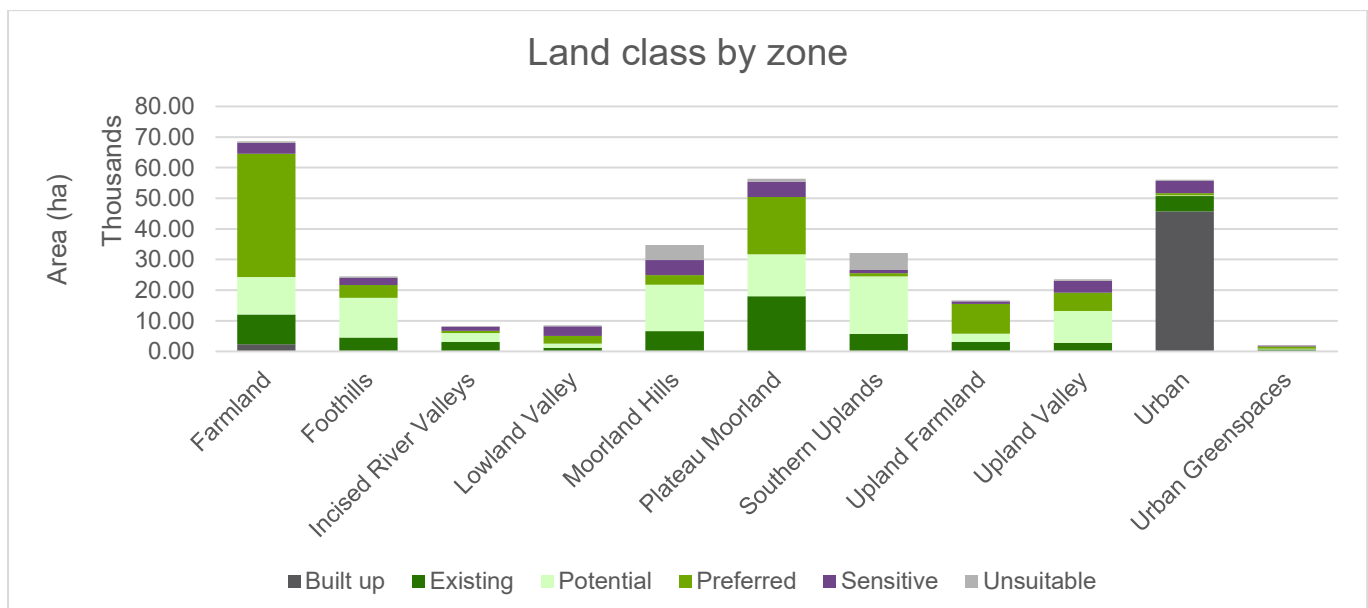
**5.22** While it would be neither practical nor desirable to suggest that this area should be entirely converted to woodland, it does highlight the possibilities for an increase in woodland cover, and for the Clydeplan area to make an expanded contribution to Scottish Government aspirations.



**5.23** This potential is not, however, evenly distributed throughout the region as Diagram 5.2 shows. The area contains a significant amount of land covered by a range of national and international environmental designations, classified as being 'sensitive' to woodland expansion. This does not mean that these are 'no go' areas for new woodlands – but the significance of the constraints limits the type and scale of woodland that can be supported and highlights the need for exemplary planning, consultation and design.

**5.24** Section 7 of the Strategy provides more detailed guidance on the types of woodland that are best suited to the opportunities of each of the region's landscapes.

**Diagram 5.2: Distribution of potential expansion**





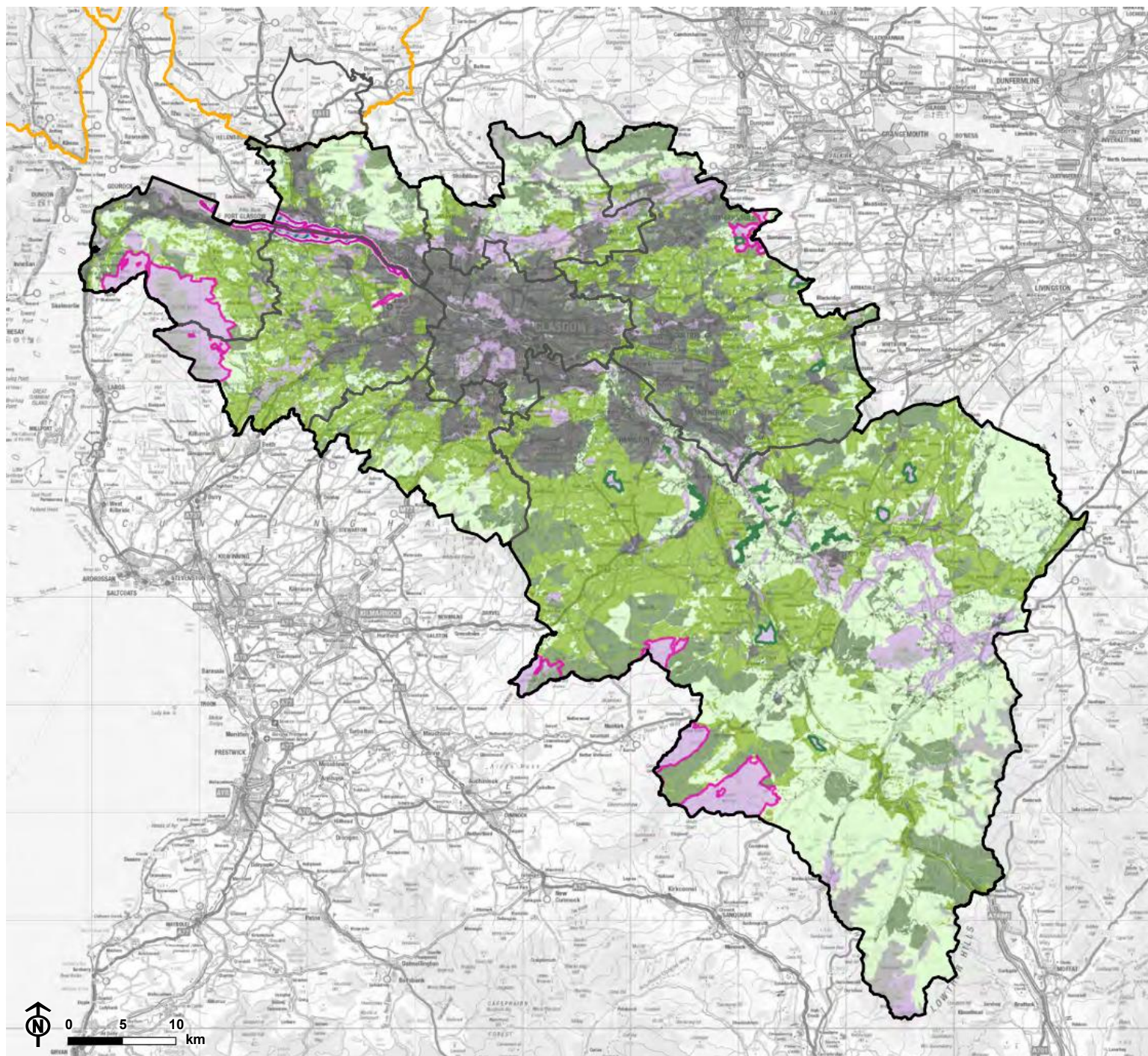
### Aspiration for woodland expansion

**5.25** Using the figures derived from the GIS analysis outlined above, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process tested a number of possible scenarios for woodland expansion in the Clydeplan area. This process was intended to determine an ambitious, but achievable and environmentally, economically and socially sustainable aspiration for the sector to work towards.

**5.26** It has therefore been calculated that the Clydeplan area could readily accommodate woodland cover of a little over **21% of land area** – an increase of approximately 9,000ha – over the lifetime of the Strategy vision.

**5.27** The following sections of the Strategy set out the appropriate location, nature and scale of new woodland that can help deliver this aspiration, and enhance the social, economic and environmental benefits that trees and woodland already provide in the Clydeplan area.

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| EM<br>1.1 | Support the delivery of approximately 9,000ha of new woodlands over the 20-year Strategy vision.   |
| EM<br>1.2 | Promote a strong multi-benefit approach to woodland planning, design and management in the Clydeplan area.   |
| EM<br>1.3 | Develop a new partnership to develop the concept of the Clyde Climate Forest in the City Region that will support the ambitions to deliver actions associated climate emergency. |



**Figure 5.1: Indicative potential for woodland expansion**

- Clydeplan boundary
- Local Authority boundary
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar

**Indicative Potential for Woodland Expansion**

- Built up
- Existing
- Potential
- Preferred
- Sensitive
- Unsuitable

Note: The Strategy is not intended to and cannot provide detailed guidance on site-specific sensitivities or the suitability of individual proposals. In line with requirements of the UK Forestry Standard local considerations, including the presence of peat, may affect the local application of the strategic framework.



## Promote improved management of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley's woodland resource

**5.28** In addition to delivering additional woodland across the Clydeplan area, ensuring that existing resources are appropriately managed is a key priority. While much of the region's woodland is already well-managed, with long term land management plans in place to guide future decisions on many sites, bringing undermanaged resources into positive stewardship could help to unlock significant economic, social and environmental value.

**5.29** In many of the region's older softwood forests, restructuring and restocking is already underway – helping to ensure that future rotations will deliver better quality timber, improved economic value and make a stronger contribution to the conservation of landscape, natural and cultural heritage values. Similarly, designing in provisions for access and recreation can help improve community use of woodland resources, contributing to improved health and well-being.

**5.30** Bringing under-managed resources, particularly in urban fringe environments, into positive management has been a particular success, delivered in part through the then Forestry Commission 'Woods In and Around Towns' programme, the Central Scotland Forest and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network. However, ensuring that these successes continue to be recognised and built on will remain a priority.

**5.31** Woodland management will be a key source of material to help promote the growth of local biomass markets, helping to provide an income to fund improved management activities and helping to make the case for investment in under-performing woodland assets.

**5.32** The Forestry Grant Scheme, particularly the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG), encourages an increase in the sustainable management of existing woodlands for example, by providing grant support for Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems, restructuring of even aged woodlands, natural regeneration of woodlands, and improving public access and management of urban woodlands (through WIAT).

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| EM 2.1 | Promote restructuring of existing softwood forests to contribute to improved economic, social and environmental values.   |
| EM 2.2 | Continue to promote opportunities to bring woodlands into positive management, prioritising assets close to where people live and where they can make an enhanced contribution to the character, quality and attractiveness of new and existing places. |
| EM 2.3 | Highlight the potential economic returns of improved woodland management as a means of driving investment in existing resources.  |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| EM 2.1 | Promote restructuring of existing softwood forests to contribute to improved economic, social and environmental values.  |
| EM 2.4 | Promote the adoption of Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems / Continuous Cover management approaches on suitable sites to help improve climate resilience, stand dynamics, timber values and contribution to landscape and biodiversity values. |

## Promote high standards of woodland design

**5.33** As noted above, the process of restructuring and restocking the region's existing softwood forests creates a major opportunity to improve the design of these resources – enhancing their contribution to landscape character, habitat networks, public access and recreation and natural and cultural heritage values. The production of long-term land management plans can help land managers develop more effective – and successful – approaches to optimising the value delivered by their assets, as well as making an enhanced contribution to wider social and environmental benefits.

**5.34** In establishing new woodland, a range of tools and techniques are available to help optimise their planning and design. These can help ensure that woodlands function effectively as both assets (e.g. so that they can be planted, thinned and harvested easily and with minimal disruption) and as part of the wider ecosystem delivering multiple benefits. The UK Forestry Standard sets the standards and requirements for new woodland, and its associated Guidelines provide key advice on ensuring new woodlands are designed to make a positive social and environmental contribution.

|        |   |
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| EM 3.1 | Ensuring that proposals for woodland creation are designed to optimise the delivery of multiple benefits and make a positive contribution to local landscapes.                  |
| EM 3.2 | Encourage land managers and their Agents to engage and consult widely in the development and delivery of land management plans and planting proposals.                          |
| EM 3.3 | Highlight the importance of good design in helping to unlock the potential for woodland expansion in areas of more sensitive landscape, including local landscape designations. |

## Make a sustainable contribution to the delivery of the Scottish Government's incremental national targets for new woodland per annum

**5.35** Woodland and trees have an important role to play in meeting Scotland's international climate change commitments. Their ability to absorb and store CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere – known as carbon sequestration – provides a key means of reducing our net emissions, in parallel with wider carbon reduction mechanisms<sup>35</sup>.

**5.36** All growing trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, therefore all woodland contributes to the national carbon budget. Similarly, organic forest soils retain significant quantities of carbon, therefore reducing the impact of management operations on this resource can have significant benefits in carbon terms.

**5.37** Since 2013<sup>36</sup> all companies listed on the stock market have been legally required to measure and report their Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. All other companies are encouraged to do so voluntarily. Although companies are first required to avoid and reduce their emissions as far as possible, for example through improved efficiency or changes in processes, establishing new woodlands can be used as a means of reducing their net emissions. A number of businesses support companies in doing this, but quality assurance – provided through schemes such as the [Woodland Carbon Code](#) – is critical in ensuring companies can meet their reporting responsibilities and ensure that woodland is established and managed in an effective and responsible manner.

**5.38** All woodland established primarily for carbon sequestration purposes will be required to meet the UK Forestry Standard – and should therefore deliver multiple benefits. The aspiration to expand the region's woodland by around 9,000ha over the lifespan of the Strategy vision will ensure that the Clydeplan area makes a sustainable and long-term contribution to meeting the national target.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| EM 4.1 | Ensuring that the carbon sequestration potential of woodland is optimised through high quality design and management.                                     |
| EM 4.2 | Ensuring that woodlands established principally for carbon sequestration meet the requirements of UKFS, and contribute to the objectives of the Strategy. |
| EM 4.3 | Promoting the value of Woodland Carbon Code accreditation for land managers seeking to participate in carbon sequestration projects.                      |

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| EM 4.1 | Ensuring that the carbon sequestration potential of woodland is optimised through high quality design and management. |
| EM 4.4 | Collecting data and monitoring the contribution of woodlands in Clydeplan to Scotland's emissions reduction targets.  |

### Woodland types

**5.39** The Scottish Government's aspirations for woodland expansion cannot be achieved by concentrating on a single woodland type or strategic objective. Similarly, achieving the right mix of woodland requires guidance on where each type is most appropriate and can add most value.

**5.40** As previously noted, managing our existing woodland resource is a key priority of the Strategy – therefore spatial guidance is provided for both management and expansion of key woodland types in Chapter 10 of the Strategy. This is intended to develop a woodland resource that is diverse, resilient to the challenges of climate change and makes a positive contribution to the economy; securing environmental quality and helping communities achieve their potential.

**5.41** This section sets out strategic guidance for the following woodland types:

- forests to provide a source of **softwood** timber;
- woodlands for biomass **energy**;
- **mixed** woodlands, such as farm woodlands and shelterbelts;
- **native** woodlands contributing to habitat networks; and,
- **urban woodlands** contributing to strategic development and regeneration objectives.

**5.42** These maps are indicative and intended to provide a starting point to inform the development and evaluation of more detailed woodland management and creation proposals – for example through local initiatives and strategies such as the South of Scotland woodland creation initiative. It is likely that there will be opportunities for each type of woodland outside the areas identified on these maps. Some areas are likely to be suitable for more than one woodland type, and some woodland may fall within more than one category.

<sup>35</sup> Scottish Government (2013) *Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the emissions reduction targets 2013-2027 – the second report on proposals and policies*.

<sup>36</sup> Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013

## Softwood forests

### Managing the existing resource

**5.43** The majority of the area's existing softwood forests are concentrated on the Plateau Moorlands forming the north-eastern and south-western boundaries of the region, with some significant areas in the Southern Uplands and in the Campsie Fells and Kilsyth Hills.

**5.44** Ongoing restructuring and restocking of existing woodlands creates a major opportunity, through the Forest Design Planning process, to deliver benefits ranging from improved stand resilience and sustainability, enhanced public access, to habitat networks and improved landscape values.

**5.45** This area contains some of the best opportunities for building on the success of the existing highly productive softwood forests by expanding the amount softwood forests in the region due to a combination of excellent softwood growing conditions and close market access. These conditions also mean that continued investment in quality restocking will be important in securing the long-term supply of timber – particularly 'whitewood' species. Supported by ongoing good silvicultural practices, the region's softwood forests can continue to produce high volumes of quality sawlogs and small roundwood to help meet the future requirements of the timber industry.

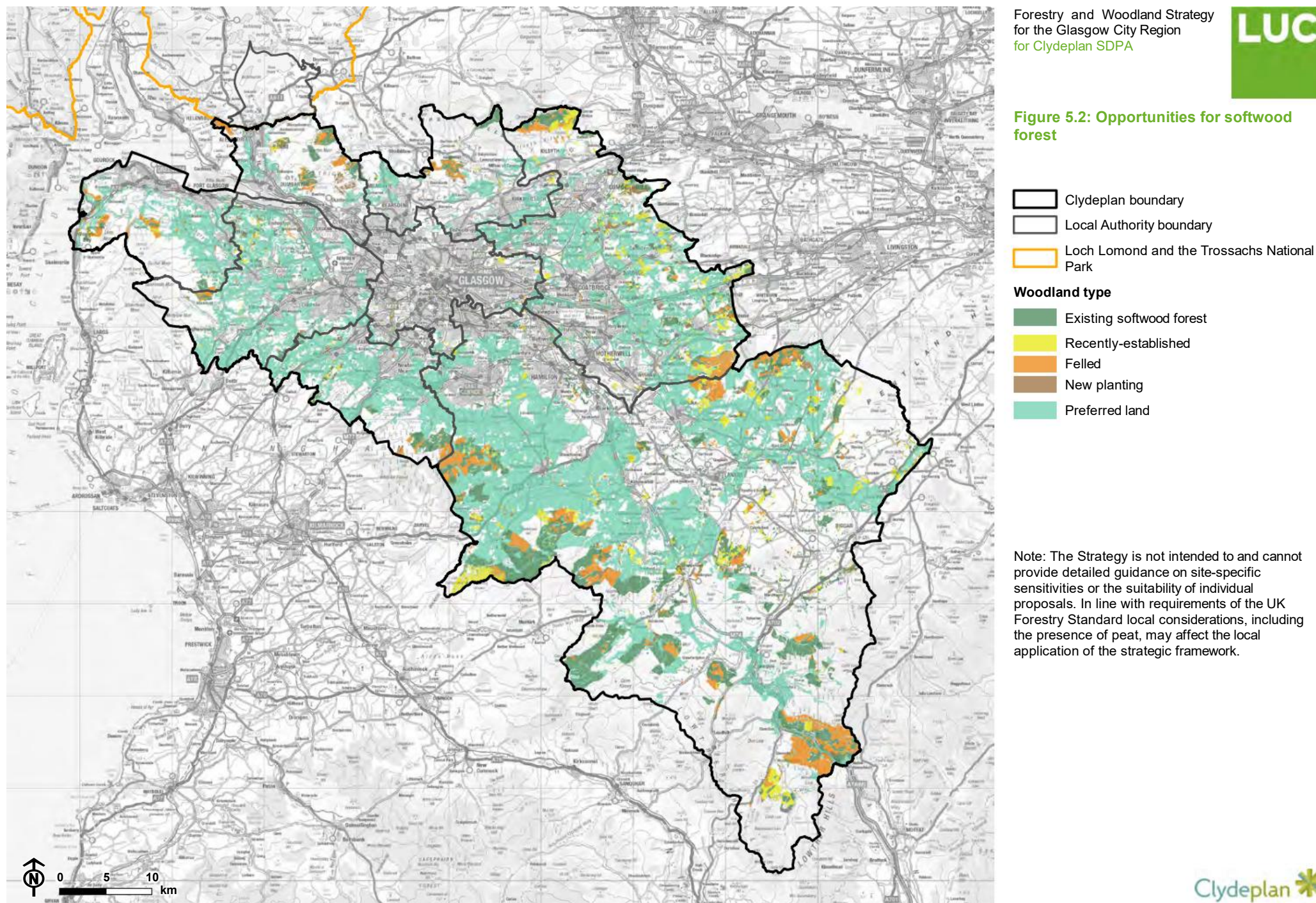
### Potential for expansion.

**5.46** With an excellent climate for growing there is potential for well-planned new and expanded conifer woodlands in the Clydeplan area. However, high standards of design will be necessary to ensure that landscape values and natural heritage issues are appropriately addressed. The suitability of land in the upland and moorland areas of the region for renewable energy development – as well as increasing national emphasis on the conservation and enhancement of peat resources – means that these will influence future planting opportunities in areas of lower landscape and natural heritage sensitivity. In upland areas covered by local landscape designations careful planning, design and can help to unlock significant opportunities for appropriate woodland creation.

**5.47** Investing in new softwood forests is a priority in terms of supporting the nationally-significant processing industry in central Scotland, contributing to security of supply for end users and continuing to improve the sustainability of locally produced timber. Current production forecasts suggest that domestic production is likely to fall significantly beyond 2040, creating a shortfall – and highlighting the need to find suitable and sustainable locations for new woodland.



**Figure 5.2: Opportunities for softwood forest**



## Energy forests

### Managing the existing resource

**5.48** Much of the region's woodland has some potential to contribute to growing the biomass sector. In addition to providing a fuel resource, this could make a substantial contribution to the health of native woodland ecosystems by providing income to secure positive management, improve the appearance and value of under-managed woods close to towns and villages and providing revenue from a currently underperforming resource.

**5.49** Developing robust supply chains is the key to ensuring long-term sustainability of the local biomass sector. Existing biomass producers and users already source significant quantities of material from local woodlands.

### Potential for expansion

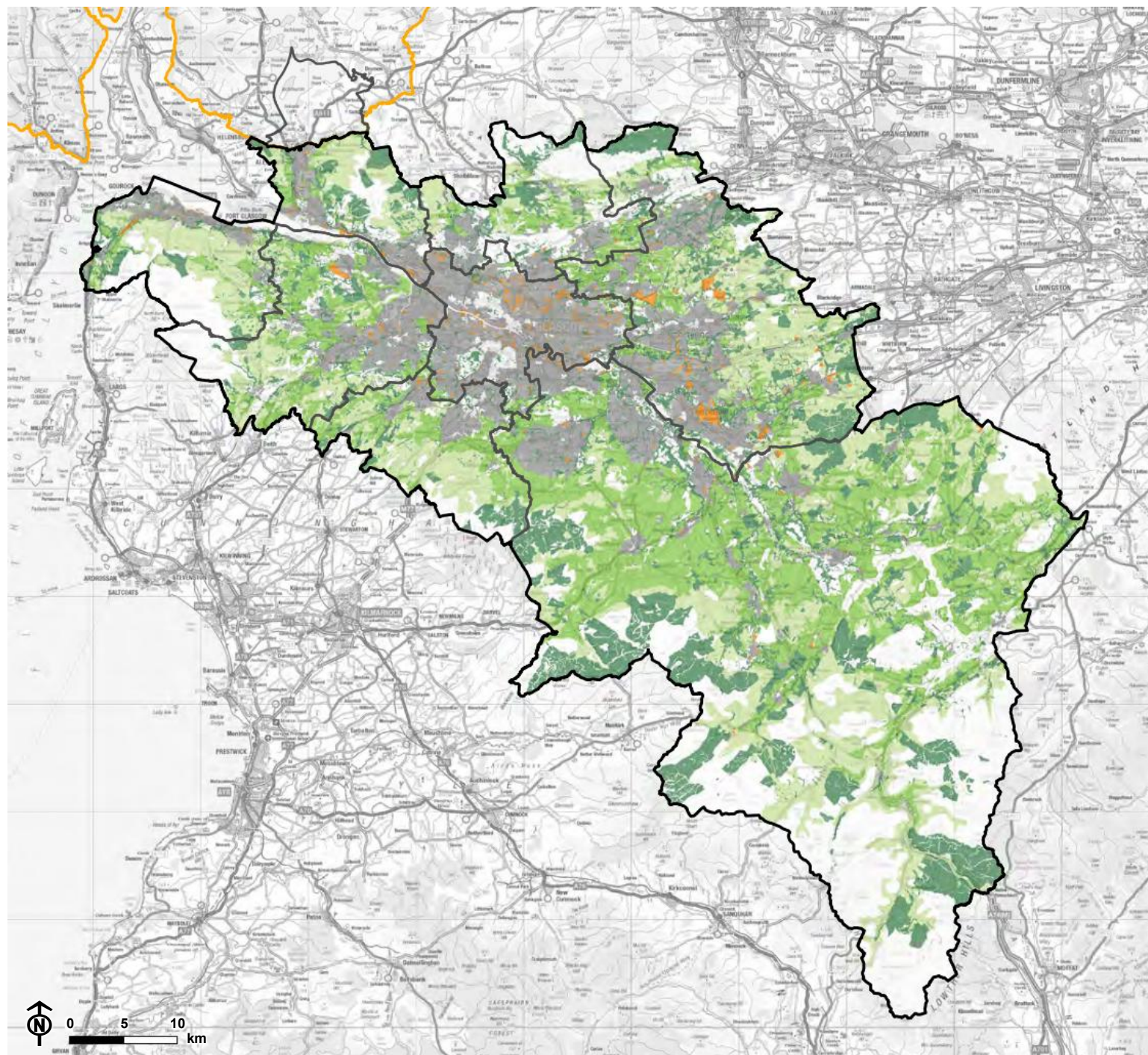
**5.50** The Scotland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 does not support short rotation coppice, and it is unlikely that successor programmes will do so. It is considered likely that management of existing woodlands and waste from harvesting softwood forests will form the majority of the biomass resource in the short to medium term.

**5.51** Close to settlement, the expansion and management of amenity woodlands could provide additional material through thinning and maintenance. Biomass could also make an important contribution to the management and sustainability of community woodlands – providing an income to support access and recreation enhancements and, potentially, a source of fuel for community ventures.

**5.52** In more marginal areas, short rotation forestry could become a component of new planting schemes. In urban areas, vacant and derelict land – and even stalled development sites or long-term safeguarded sites – could provide an attractive location for new woodland with a biomass component.



**Figure 5.3: Opportunities for energy forests**



- Clydeplan boundary
- Local Authority boundary
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Managing existing woodlands
- Managing and expanding farm woodlands
- Contributing to temporary greening of vacant and derelict land
- Wider range of opportunities
- Built-up area

Note: The Strategy is not intended to and cannot provide detailed guidance on site-specific sensitivities or the suitability of individual proposals. In line with requirements of the UK Forestry Standard local considerations, including the presence of peat, may affect the local application of the strategic framework.

## Mixed woodlands

### Managing the existing resource

**5.53** The Clydeplan area has a comparatively sparse distribution of mixed woodland, predominantly concentrated in the region's parks, gardens and designed landscapes. Amenity planting, connected with development and transport networks, and small farm woodlands also comprise a small but significant proportion of this resource.

**5.54** In designed landscapes and for field trees, succession planning is vital to ensure that landscape character and heritage significance are maintained. The effects of climate change should also be taken into account in the selection of species and provenance, helping to design in resilience. Species diversity is a key tool in providing resilience against future pests and disease.

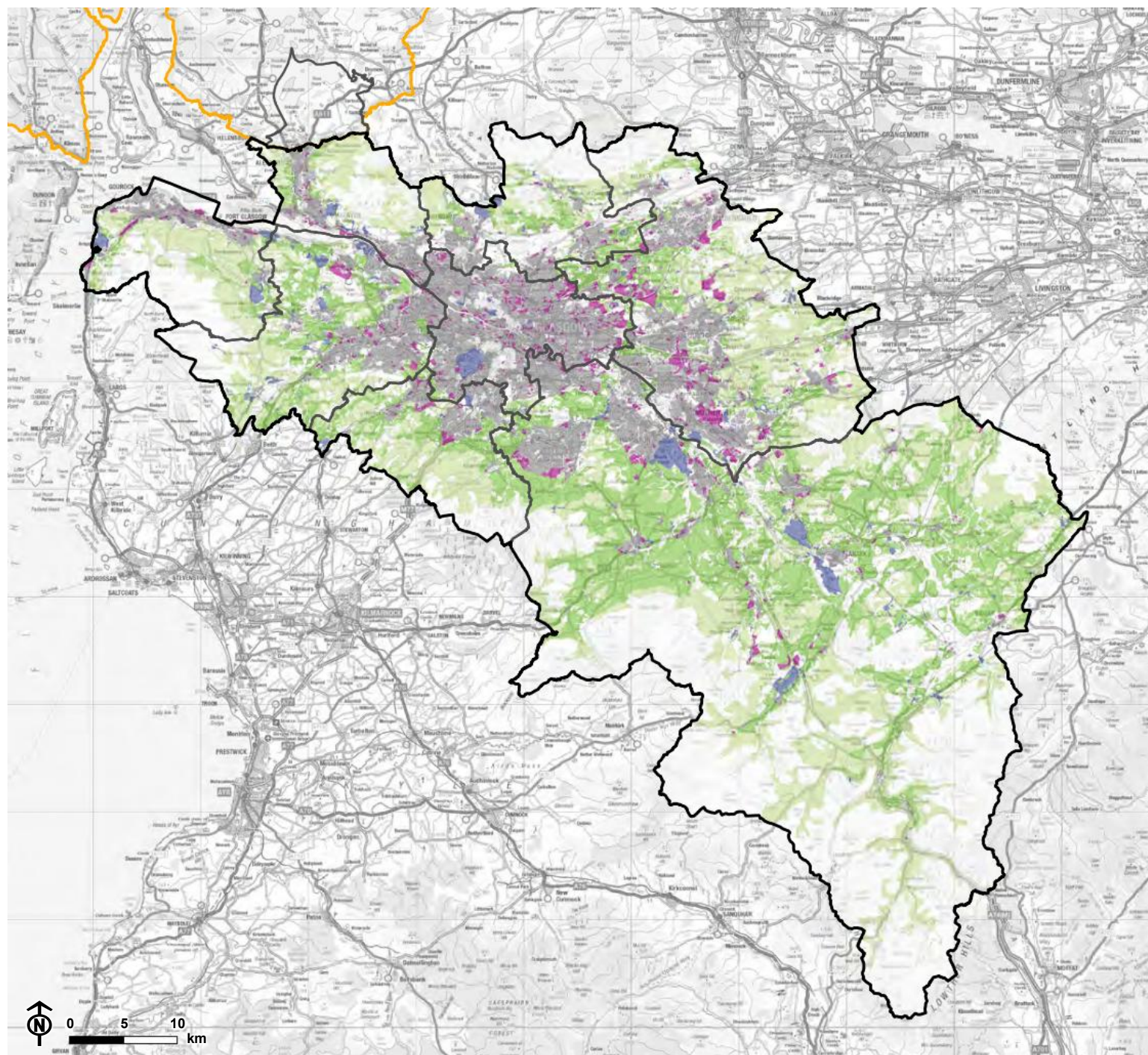
### Potential for expansion










**5.55** It is likely that agricultural areas will provide an additional focus for new mixed woodland creation, providing a diverse resource for on-farm use, timber sale and biomass production. Over the time period of the Strategy it is important that farm forestry, as a key means of delivering farm-scale adaptation, is promoted accordingly.

**5.56** Highlighting the role of trees and woodland in meeting the challenge of adapting to climate change could help to boost uptake. Increasing planting in river corridors can help to mitigate the effects of floodwaters. Again, understanding how woodland and forests relate to the decisions of different land managers will be critical in developing incentives, information and support to help achieve this kind of expansion. New planting of farm woodlands and shelterbelts could also help to restore lost or degraded boundaries and help to maintain character, particularly around designed landscapes where distinctive field patterns can provide strong landscape structure and local distinctiveness.



**Figure 5.4: Opportunities for mixed woodland**



-  Clydeplan boundary
-  Local Authority boundary
-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
-  Supporting agriculture on higher quality land
-  Supporting resilience and diversification
-  Wider range of opportunities
-  Supporting development priorities
-  Conserving and enhancing historic gardens and designed landscapes
-  Built-up area

Note: The Strategy is not intended to and cannot provide detailed guidance on site-specific sensitivities or the suitability of individual proposals. In line with requirements of the UK Forestry Standard local considerations, including the presence of peat, may affect the local application of the strategic framework.

## Native woodlands

### Managing the existing resource

**5.57** Nearly 24% of the region's woodland is classified as native, with the majority of the resource concentrated in riparian networks, designed landscapes and protected areas. Recent environmental enhancement projects, delivered by local authorities, the Central Scotland Forest and through the Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Central Scotland Green Networks, have also contributed substantial areas of new, multi-benefit native woodland – along with the key contribution of numerous individual land owners and managers investing in new woodland.

**5.58** Across the north of the region, physical and functional connectivity of native woodland habitats is relatively good, while the Clyde Valley provides a high-quality green artery running from the foothills of the Southern Uplands into urban Glasgow. However, the plateau farmland and moors surrounding the metropolitan area have a far sparser distribution, with these landscapes creating substantial barriers to connectivity – and the ability of species to adapt to the challenges of climate change. Although sparsely wooded these areas do contain other habitats such as peatlands which are valuable in their own right as ecosystems and carbon stores.

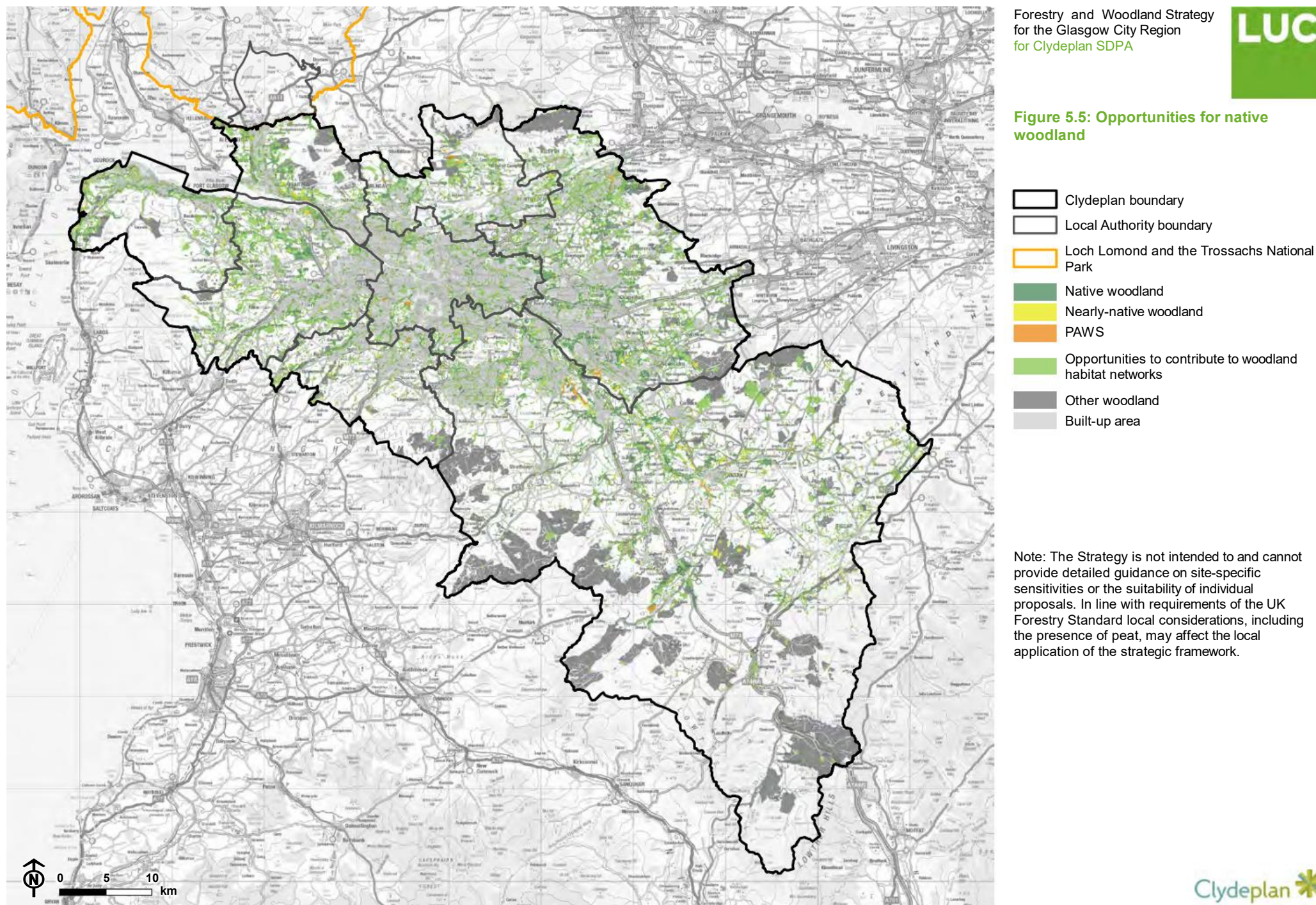
### Potential for expansion

**5.59** Conserving and enhancing the region's internationally and nationally significant native woodlands in the Clyde and Avon Valleys is a key priority, as is optimising the biodiversity value of this resource by reinforcing existing and developing new networks of high-quality habitat. Similarly, building on existing links to Loch Lomond through the Vale of Leven and the fringes of the Kilpatrick Hills will help to build resilience and connections to the Atlantic oakwoods in the National Park.

**5.60** Integrated Habitat Network (IHN) models can provide some insight as to where new planting may add value to existing networks and create new connections in fragmented areas. Within Glasgow and the Clyde Valley this is being taken forward at a more detailed level through the Blueprint framework for the creation of a strategic Green Network for the benefit of people and wildlife. The pastoral farmland of the region poses a significant challenge as, in many areas, traditional networks of field trees, farm woodlands and hedgerows are under-managed and require investment to secure their future. Ensuring that new native woodlands are part of the mix promoted to assist agriculture adapt to the effects of climate change could have significant benefits in building connectivity across these areas.



**Figure 5.5: Opportunities for native woodland**



Note: The Strategy is not intended to and cannot provide detailed guidance on site-specific sensitivities or the suitability of individual proposals. In line with requirements of the UK Forestry Standard local considerations, including the presence of peat, may affect the local application of the strategic framework.

## Urban woodlands

### Managing the existing resource

**5.61** Access to high quality woodlands close to where people live can bring significant community benefits by providing places for recreation and learning. Despite containing Scotland's largest city, and a significant number of large settlements, the urban areas of the region hold around 8% of its woodland. A substantial proportion of this resource is located in urban parks, historic estates, gardens and amenity planting, and in the corridors of major rivers and the Forth and Clyde Canal. There is still considerable scope for more effective management and enhancement of the region's urban woodland resource. The priority is therefore identifying and prioritising under-managed woodlands and continuing to work with all stakeholders to unlock their potential.

### Potential for expansion

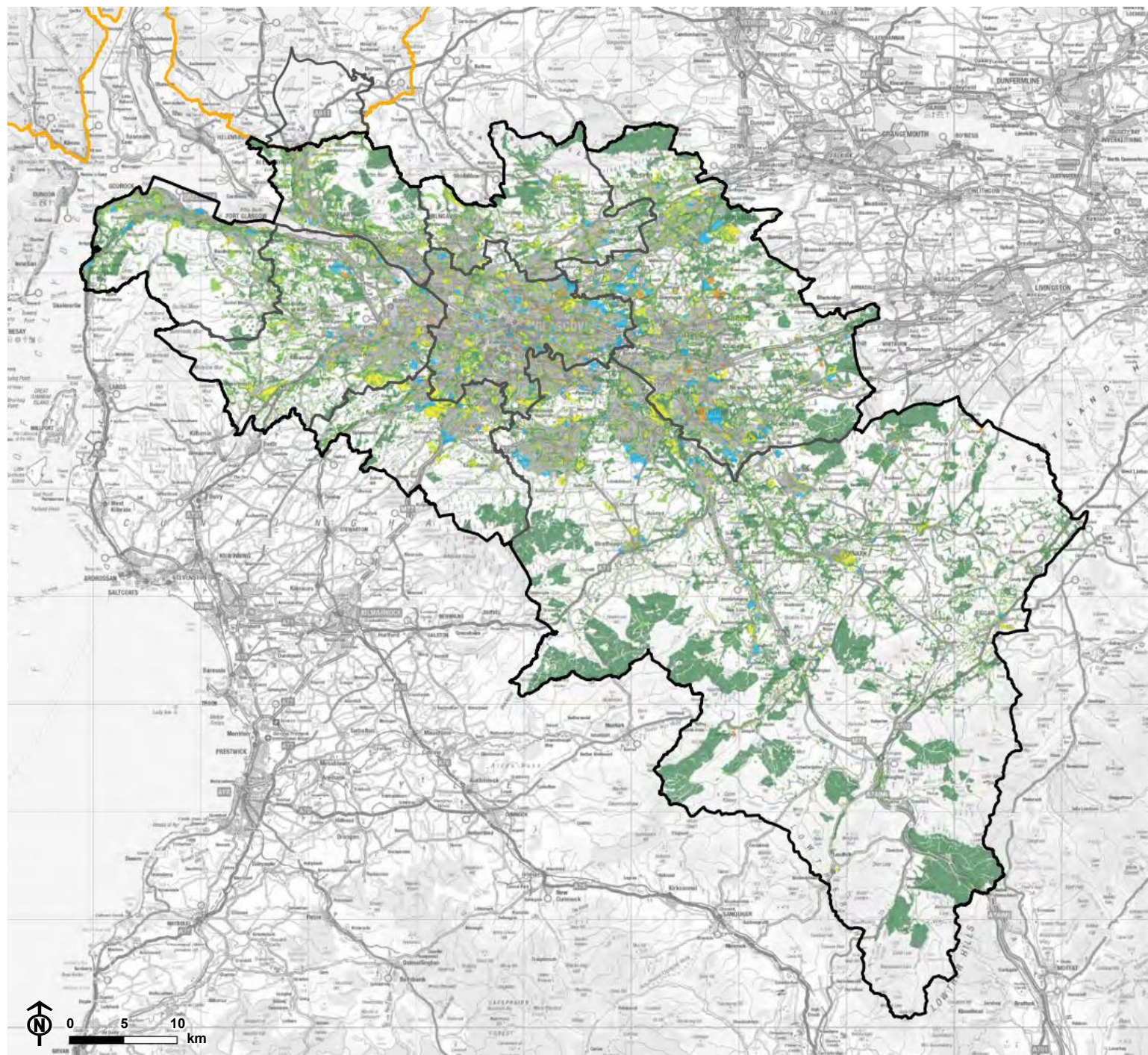
**5.62** As this document is intended as a regional strategy, the spatial analysis undertaken is not suitable for identifying individual sites for planting. However, there is some potential within the urban area – particularly in terms of vacant and derelict land – for meaningful woodland expansion. Similarly, ongoing regeneration projects can make a substantial contribution to the woodland component of green network development. Temporary greening of stalled development sites has already had some significant success in Glasgow, and appropriate use of woodland can contribute to the wider roll-out of this approach to addressing issues of blight and perception across the region.

**5.63** The region's towns also have a substantial resource of under-used amenity grassland that adds little value for communities, nature or sense of place. Activity could focus on converting under-used or problematic amenity grassland, to contribute to local character and habitat networks, enhancing the setting of new and existing development and addressing issues with vacant and derelict land.

**5.64** At a local level, the local authority Open Space Strategies and to their tree/canopy strategies will provide more detailed guidance for urban woodland development, in line with the principles in the Strategy.



**Figure 5.6: Opportunities for urban woodlands**



- Clydeplan boundary
- Local Authority boundary
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Contributing to the setting of new housing development
- Contributing to enhanced greenspaces
- Contributing to temporary greening of vacant and derelict land
- Managing existing woodlands
- Opportunities to contribute to woodland habitat networks
- Built-up area

Note: The Strategy is not intended to and cannot provide detailed guidance on site-specific sensitivities or the suitability of individual proposals. In line with requirements of the UK Forestry Standard local considerations, including the presence of peat, may affect the local application of the strategic framework.

## Chapter 6

### Economy

**6.1** Trees and woodlands will make an increasingly important contribution to the region's economy. As well as supporting a healthy timber sector, trees and woodlands will help create an environment which attracts investment, encourages high quality development and supports COVID-19 green recovery.

#### COVID-19 Green Recovery

**6.2** COVID-19 has led to an unprecedented shutdown of large parts of the global economy. As a result, it has also facilitated a substantial shift in our behaviours. A large proportion of the population have been working remotely from home for several months, as well as engaging more in active travel, and minimising travel beyond their local area. This has had a significant effect on the environment, with a dramatic reduction in air pollution and the release of greenhouse gasses, globally, compared to pre-COVID levels. In 2020, global emissions are expected to fall by a record 5-10%, with a potentially larger fall in the UK.

**6.3** The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has highlighted the opportunity to turn the COVID-19 crisis into a defining moment in the fight against climate change and have provided advice on delivering economic recovery that accelerates the transition to a cleaner, net-zero emissions economy, whilst strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change. From an economic perspective, this includes investing in climate-resilient low-carbon infrastructure, job creation in low-carbon and climate-resilient industries, training and reskilling of the workforce.

**6.4** The CCC have set out the principles to building a resilient economy in the 'Reducing UK emissions: 2020 Progress Report to Parliament'. One of the key principles relates to increasing tree planting, peatland restoration and green infrastructure. The report acknowledges that there may be significant benefits for the climate, biodiversity, air quality and flood prevention, as a result of making substantial changes to land use.

**6.5** Enabling a shift toward positive, long-term behaviour patterns may also provide opportunities to support economic recovery. There is a need to continue to reinforce the 'climate-positive' behaviours that have emerged during the lockdown, including increased remote working, cycling and walking. Promoting afforestation, peatland restoration and the creation and enhancement of green infrastructure will encourage



greater use of the natural environment for active travel and recreation. In addition, it will enable greater rates of carbon sequestration whilst providing sustainable adaptation measures for the predicted effects of climate change.

## Creating an environment for investment

**6.6** A high-quality environment is essential in supporting economic growth within Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. The region competes at a global scale and the quality of the environment is one of the factors influencing investors' decisions. A high-quality environment also helps attract and retain a skilled workforce – an important factor for existing businesses and potential investors.

**6.7** Trees and woodland already make an important contribution to the diverse rural and urban environments of the region. Development of the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network, individual Councils' open space strategies, growth of the Central Scotland Forest and increasing involvement of third-sector organisations are growing this contribution, particularly in areas where the physical and social legacy of industrial activity is most evident, and in areas where investment and regeneration are needed most.

**6.8** This strategy aims to increase the role of trees and woodland in creating an environment for investment by:

- Enhancing economic investment locations.
- Encouraging temporary planting on stalled sites and derelict land.
- Enhancing and expanding the Green Network.
- Enhancing transport corridors, for active travel and alongside road and rail.
- Promoting rural development and diversification.
- Supporting the tourism sector.
- Shaping new communities.

## Enhancing economic investment locations

**6.9** Clydeplan has a series of Strategic Economic Investment Locations (SEILs) with a focus on stimulating economic, social and environmental regeneration<sup>37</sup>. These include the continued delivery of development at Clyde Riverside, Clyde Gateway, Gartosh, Ravenscraig and Bishopton; and new areas such as the 'Creative Clyde Enterprise Area', the South Glasgow University Hospital, and 'BioCity Scotland' at Newhouse. Building on the proposals of

SDP1, significant investment will also continue in delivering upgraded transport networks.

**6.10** Trees and woodland can help support economic investment in these locations in accordance with the local development plan by helping to creating the high-quality environment that attracts and retains investment. Trees and woodland can also help new developments make a positive contribution to the wider environment supporting regeneration and future investment opportunities.

|        |  |
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| EC 1.1 | Adopt a strategic approach to woodland planning, establishment and management designed to improve the environmental quality and setting of economic investment locations within the wider Green Network  |
| EC 1.2 | Encourage a sensitive approach to existing trees and woodland in and around development sites and supporting their retention, enhancement and expansion wherever possible  |
| EC 1.3 | Promote the bold use of new woodland planting to create high quality landscape structure for new development, whilst contributing to habitat connectivity, access and recreation opportunities, shelter and sustainable drainage and creating links with surrounding communities |
| EC 1.4 | Encourage imaginative use of trees along access routes, in public greenspaces, civic spaces and private gardens, including 'retro-fitting' of green infrastructure where possible  |
| EC 1.5 | Promote greening ahead of development to create a high quality setting for planned development   |

## Temporary planting on stalled sites

**6.11** Many sites across the region have been prepared for commercial or industrial development in advance of specific investment proposals. The recent recession has reduced demand for these sites, meaning that it may take longer for development to take place than previously anticipated.

**6.12** Planting in advance of development could help address the financial and greening aspects associated with new development. Tree planting could be used to provide screening around the periphery of sites, particularly where this contributes to habitat networks and increases the region's overall woodland cover and can be retained post-development. Since the approval of SDP1 and the 2011 Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy, the 'stalled spaces' approach has been rolled out nationally by the Scottish Government as part of the Legacy 2014

<sup>37</sup> SEILs include: Glasgow City Centre, ITREZ, Clyde Gateway, IFSD, Creative Clyde Enterprise Area, Robroyston, West of Scotland Science Park, Inverclyde Waterfront, Eurocentral, Gartosh, Ravenscraig, Bishopton, Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation District (AMIDS), Hillington/Renfrew North,

Hamilton International Technology Park, Peel Park North, Poniel, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, Clydebank Riverside, Lomondgate, BioCity Enterprise Area and Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

programme. Glasgow City Council are progressing the award-winning Stalled Spaces project

|        |   |
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| EC 2.1 | Encourage temporary planting to improve the environmental quality of vacant and derelict land and stalled development sites |
| EC 2.2 | Work with Clydeplan local authorities to identify opportunities for new woodland to contribute to 'Stalled Space' projects  |

### Greening vacant, derelict and underused land

**6.13** Industrial development during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and subsequent de-industrialisation from the 1970s onwards, has left an extensive legacy of vacant and derelict land right across the region. In some parts of the urban fringe a combination of industrial dereliction and urban expansion means that rural landscapes have become fragmented and uneconomic to farm. The environmental quality of these areas has declined, with other activities replacing farming and some areas being abandoned altogether, adding to the impacts of past industrial activity.

**6.14** The work of the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT), SF, third-sector organisations, the Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Central Scotland Green Networks illustrates how tree and woodland planting can provide a new focus for these damaged landscapes, creating a high-quality environment and transforming the way that decision makers and local people think about the area. It should be noted, however, that not all areas of vacant and derelict land are suitable for woodland planting but may provide other benefits in terms of non-woodland habitat or short-term development potential.

**6.15** Using new tree and woodland planting to enhance derelict, vacant and underused land could further change perceptions of the region as a whole, as well as creating opportunities for investment, training and employment. It could also deliver a range of other important benefits, including:

- Improving communities' health and quality of life;
- Creating new opportunities for recreation;
- Creating and reconnecting woodland habitats;
- Creating a potential source of wood fuel close to key sources of demand;
- Helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by absorbing carbon from the atmosphere;
- Contributing to sustainable flood management by slowing run-off into burns and rivers.

**6.16** Using woodland to tackle vacant, derelict and underused land and securing a range of economic, social and

environmental benefits will contribute to the aims of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network and contribute to ecosystem restoration. Tackling this legacy is identified as one of the three core purposes of the Central Scotland Green Network in NPF3. However, delivering appropriate solutions will require wide-ranging partnerships. Bringing together local authorities, public bodies, the private sector and communities is essential to ensure that regeneration priorities are well balanced, locally appropriate and meeting identified needs.

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| EC 3.1 | Prioritise the creation of new woodlands, and the management of existing trees and woodland, to improve the environmental quality of vacant, derelict and underused land. |
|--------|---|

### Enhancing transport corridors

**6.17** The Clydeplan area has many busy major road and rail links. The many people who live, visit or work in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley form their impressions of the region from the experience of travelling along these transport routes.

**6.18** New woodland planting can be used to improve the quality of the landscape along road and rail corridors and to shape perceptions of the area as somewhere to live, work and invest. Woodland planting also brings benefits to air quality. This applies to existing transport corridors and new infrastructure, to longer distance and longer routes. Careful design is needed to protect important views and to contribute to habitat networks. The visibility of these woodlands means that effective maintenance and management is essential.

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| EC 4.1 | Support the creation of new woodlands along transport corridors where this provides screening and improves views.                      |
| EC 4.2 | Prioritise the management of new and existing woodlands along transport corridors to maintain their contribution to the Green Network. |

### Promoting rural development and diversification

**6.19** Large parts of the region are rural in character and farming remains an important part of the economy. Woodland creation and management can provide an additional source of income for farm enterprises which will be taken forward under the Scottish Government successor of the Common Agricultural Policy. There are also increasing opportunities to manage existing woodlands to provide a sustainable source of wood fuel, particularly in areas close to processing facilities. There may also be opportunities to re-establish and/or restore productive woodlands once found in different parts of the region.

**6.20** New and existing woodlands can also deliver other benefits in rural areas including:

- Providing shelter for farm animals and crops – this may be increasingly important if climate change brings wetter winters, stormier weather and sunnier summers;
- Increasing the role of farm woodlands in absorbing and storing carbon from the atmosphere;
- Contributing to sustainable flood management by intercepting rainfall and slowing the rate of runoff into burns and rivers;
  - This can also assist in reducing the impact of agricultural diffuse pollution
- Helping to link habitats, reversing habitat loss and helping plants and animals adapt to the changing climate.

**6.21** In areas where agriculture is less viable, more extensive woodland planting may be an important alternative, contributing to ecosystem restoration and creating new opportunities for training and employment. Implementation will require to be supported through future rural policy.

**6.22** There is a range of ways in which communities can become involved in managing or even taking ownership of woodlands. This can provide the basis for social enterprises based on timber products or woodland based recreation activity.

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| EC 5.1 | Work with land managers to increase the contribution of woodland and forests to the rural economy, bringing benefits for the agricultural sector, creating alternative sources of rural income and supporting community ownership and social enterprise. |
| EC 5.2 | Work with the agricultural sector to increase the management of existing woodlands and to identify opportunities to create new farm woods  |

### Supporting tourism and recreation

**6.23** Tourism also makes an important contribution to the regional economy and the range of recreation opportunities helps make Glasgow and the Clyde Valley an attractive place to live and work.

**6.24** Forests and woodlands already provide recreation opportunities ranging from the network of mountain biking routes in the Carron Valley to rich woodlands around the New Lanark World Heritage Site and the Falls of Clyde National Nature Reserve, the Kilpatrick Hills and the Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park. Woodlands contribute to the character of a number of longer distance trails, including the West Highland Way, Clyde Walkway and Kelvin Walkway as well as creating the setting for attractions such as the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site, the Burrell Collection and Kelvingrove Art Gallery. Trees and woodlands

are also characteristic of many of the area's most popular parks and historic gardens.

**6.25** There is potential to create new recreation and tourism opportunities linked to existing and new woodlands including recently developed parks on vacant derelict and underused land at Cuningar Loop, Fernbrae Meadows and Redlees Quarry in South Lanarkshire. These could include:

- Additional mountain biking facilities or the development of other outdoor recreation projects in appropriate locations;
- Design for outdoor recreation opportunities such as running routes, BMX pump tracks and spaces for intensive fitness training;
- The creation of new woodland trails for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and more specialist groups such as orienteers, to support connectivity of existing facilities into a regional access network;
- The sensitive creation of woodland trails in ecologically rich woodlands such as those found in the Clyde Valley near Lanark;
- The development of a strategic recreation resource within the network of new and existing woodlands in the Kilpatrick Hills;
- The use of woodland and tree planting to improve the setting of tourism attractions, long distance trails and features such as the Antonine Wall and Forth and Clyde Canal;
- The positive management of historic trees and policy woodlands where these are important recreation areas or contribute to wider landscapes;
- The careful management of trees and woodlands to maximise the quality of urban open spaces, civic spaces and country parks.

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| EC 6.1 | Increase the role of woodlands and forests in supporting tourism and recreation by developing and promoting new recreation opportunities;   |
| EC 6.2 | Encourage the use of woodland to improve the setting of tourism sites;  |
| EC 6.3 | Prioritise the management of existing trees and woodland within historic landscapes and where they make a significant contribution to the quality of open spaces, civic spaces and country parks. |
| EC 6.4 | Building on the Commonwealth Games Legacy projects to enhance the recreation offer of woodlands, including in the Kilpatrick Hills  |

### Shaping new communities

**6.26** A series of Community Growth Areas provide the focus for new housing development across Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. Some of these new communities are being built on brownfield land (e.g. at Bishopton where the Community Woodland Park is already a critical part of the ROF Bishopton regeneration, potentially adding up to 450ha of “new” woodland resource) while others are on greenfield sites adjacent to existing settlements. Most are linked to the regeneration of existing communities.

**6.27** Clyde Gateway Urban Regeneration Company is helping to regenerate key locations within Glasgow & Clyde Valley. The Glasgow City Region City Deal will fund major infrastructure projects; create thousands of new jobs and assist thousands of unemployed people back to work; improve public transport and connectivity; drive business innovation and growth and generate billions of pounds of private sector investment.

**6.28** Woodland creation and management can help these new communities enjoy a high-quality environment by contributing to networks of open space and providing shelter and containment. This will make developments more attractive places to live as well as improving their sustainability in the longer term. Woodland will also help fit new housing schemes into the wider landscape and connect them with the Green Network.

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| EC 7.1 | Prioritise the role of existing and new woodlands in creating attractive and sustainable Community Growth Areas  |
| EC 7.2 | Encourage the creation of high-quality woodlands in and around new urban developments, connecting them with the surrounding countryside and existing urban greenspace to contribute to the wider Green Network |
| EC 7.3 | Wherever possible, carrying out new woodland planting and green infrastructure creation in advance of new planned development.   |
| EC 7.4 | Encourage the management and maintenance of new and existing trees and woodlands in and around new development in the long term  |
| EC 7.5 | Work with the Urban Regeneration Companies to identify opportunities for the creation of new urban woodlands as a component of the regeneration of strategic locations within the Region                       |
| EC 7.6 | Ensure that, where new woodland is created in parallel with development, appropriate mechanisms are put in place at the planning stage to secure long-term management and maintenance                          |



Figure 6.1: Land allocations

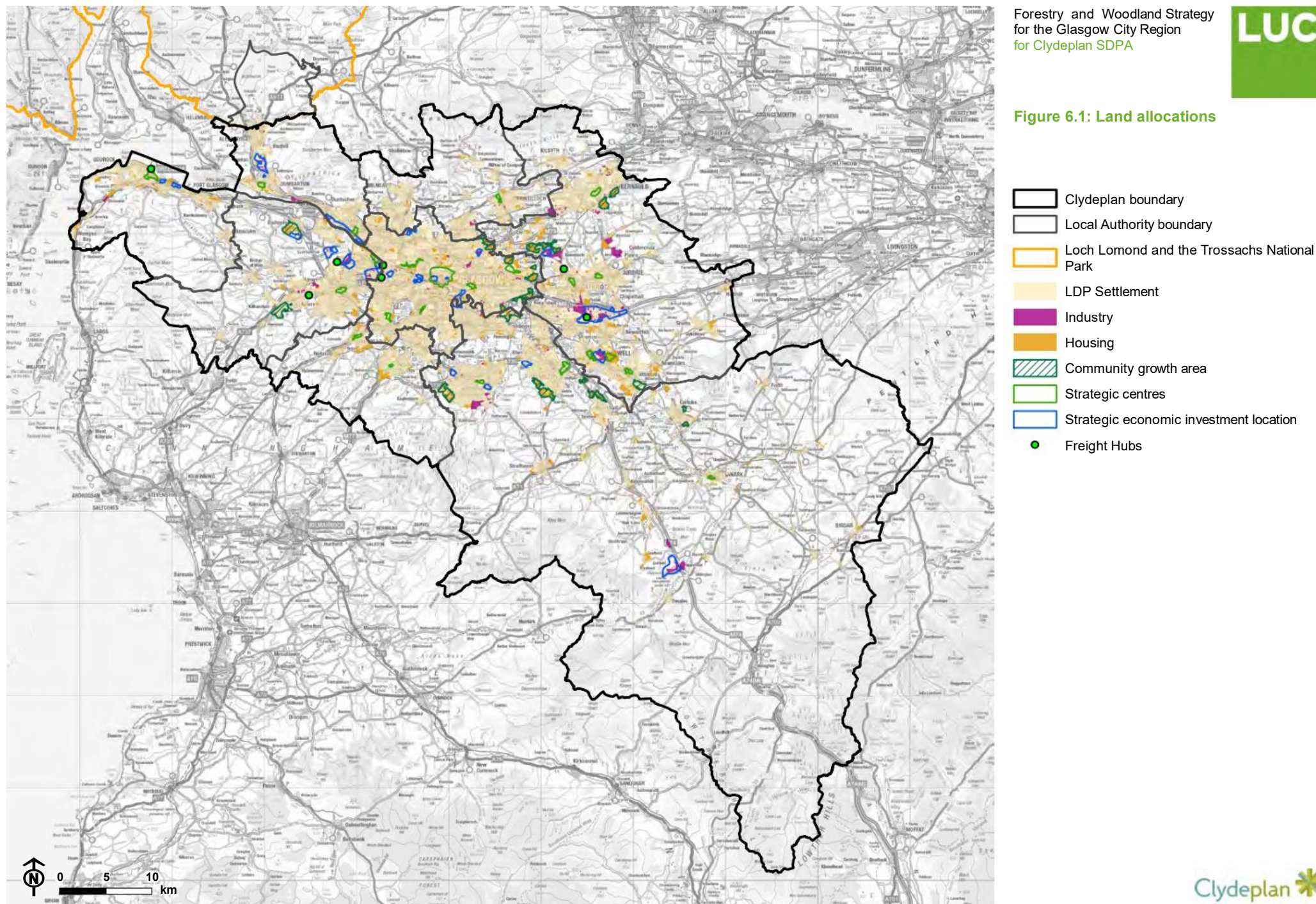
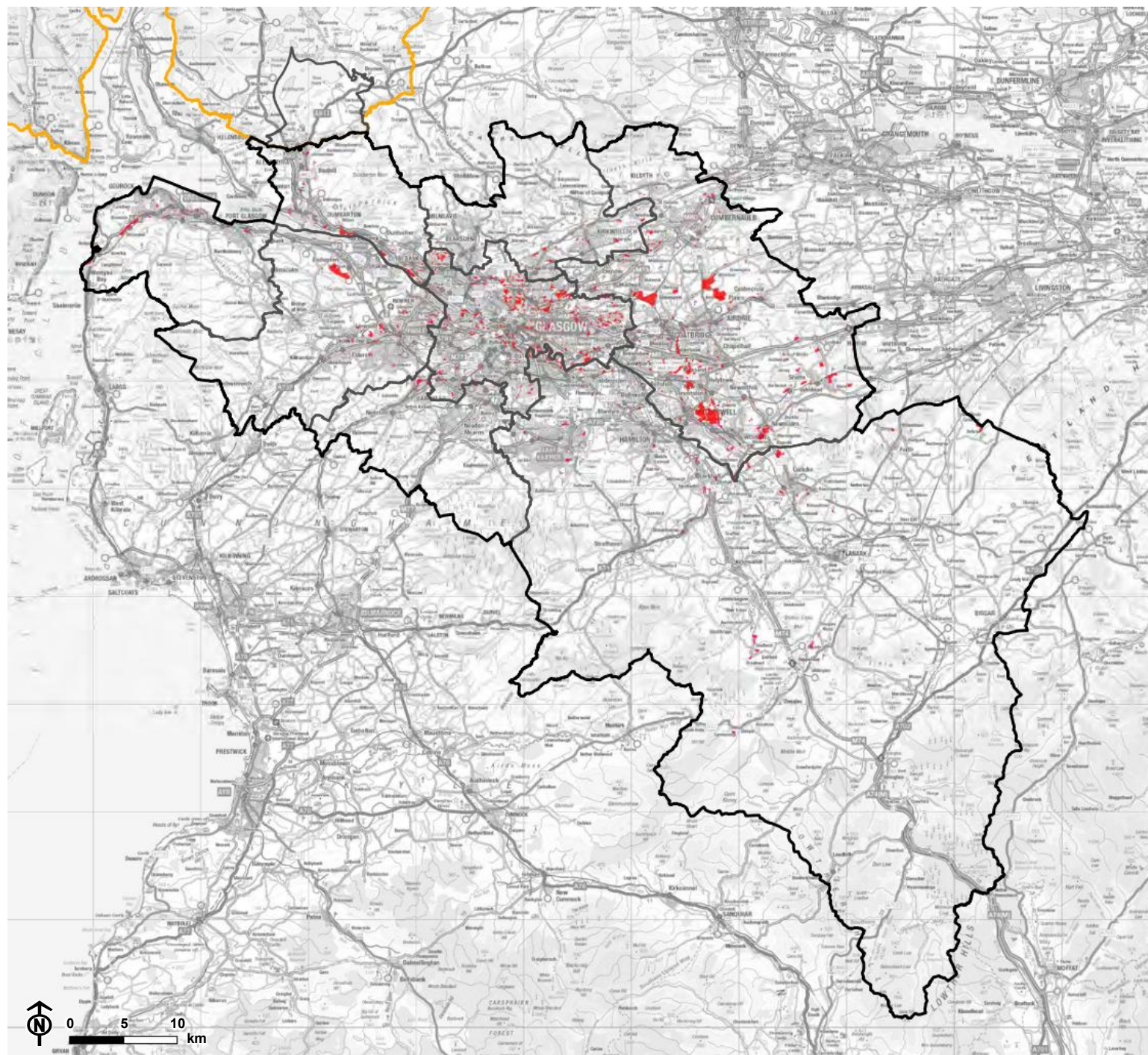








Figure 6.2: Vacant and Derelict Land



-  Clydeplan boundary
-  Local Authority boundary
-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
-  Vacant and derelict land

## Contributing to a healthy wood production and processing sector

**6.29** The timber growing and processing sector is a small but significant component of the Clydeplan area's economy, but one where there is potential for growth.

**6.30** The region includes around 19,000ha of conifer forest, most of which is made up species such as Sitka Spruce, European Larch and Scots Pine. The character of these woodlands is changing as they are harvested and replanted, with a greater emphasis on stand resilience, native tree species and varying age structure. At the same time, there is potential to expand the total area of productive forest to include volumes of hardwood and biomass production.

**6.31** Compared with other parts of Scotland, the region has a good network of transport routes able to accommodate timber transport, lies close to local markets, several sawmills and processing plants. This provides a good base upon which to grow the sector.

**6.32** This strategy aims to support the growth of timber production and processing in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley by:

- Maintaining and increasing timber production.
- Supporting the development of robust supply chains.
- Encouraging hard wood production.
- Encouraging management and expansion of woodland for biomass production.
- Supporting the expansion of timber processing.
- Creating and protecting local markets.
- Encouraging the development of self-harvesting groups prepared to take on existing, under-managed woodland and manage them sustainably.

### Maintaining and increasing timber production

#### Overview of existing productive woodland cover

**6.33** Glasgow and the Clyde Valley has extensive areas of productive forest. They tend to be concentrated in upland areas including the Campsie Fells, Clyde Muirshiel Hills, Kilpatrick Hills, the Southern Uplands and the plateau moorlands that enclose much of the Clyde valley.

#### Improving existing productive forests

**6.34** Many areas of forest were planted at a time when there was an emphasis on volume timber production, with less

attention paid to their appearance or habitat value. Forestry practice has been transformed over the past twenty years following the publication of the UK Forest Standard and there is now a much stronger emphasis on designing forests which fit the landscape, include more open space, are varied in terms of the age and species of trees (including native species) and which include a range of different habitats.

As existing areas of forest mature and are harvested, a process of redesigning and restructuring the forests will occur as new trees are planted. This will result in forests that are better suited to their setting and that provide a range of recreation, ecological and other benefits alongside timber production. Supporting this process is therefore a key priority of this strategy.

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| EC 8.1 | Continue to promote restructuring and redesign of existing softwood forests to improve timber quality in subsequent rotations, enhance landscape and biodiversity values and secure resilience to climate change |
| EC 8.2 | Work with land managers to guide restructuring of forests in more sensitive locations  |
| EC 8.3 | Sustain consistent long term timber supplies by prioritising quality restocking of species on suitable sites   |

### Increasing the area of productive forestry

**6.35** There is considerable potential to increase the area of productive forest within the Clydeplan area. Some new planting is required to compensate for the restructuring of existing forests, such as the inclusion of larger areas of open space. Planting is also required to replace the considerable amount of woodland lost as a result of wind energy development. Added to this is the Scottish Government's aspiration to increase national woodland cover to 15,000ha per annum from 2024/25<sup>38</sup> and the growing emphasis on wood fuel and quality hard wood. As other sections of this strategy have suggested, there is also scope for new woodland to supplement agricultural incomes.

**6.36** It is likely that new planting for softwood timber production will be concentrated on the fringes of the plateau farmlands and in the plateau moorlands. Much of the land resource in these areas is ideal for growing conifer species, therefore there is substantial potential for sustainable expansion, subject to consideration of local environmental constraints and in line with the UK forest standard. In addition, potential for implementing continuous cover forestry and developing more diverse, multi-functional woodland could open up opportunities for productive woodlands in other locations.

<sup>38</sup> Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029



|        |   |
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| EC 9.1 | Work with the forestry sector to develop and increase the competitiveness of local timber-using businesses, with a focus on provenance and sustainability   |
| EC 9.2 | Encourage the use of locally-grown timber for manufacturing purposes (construction materials, furniture, and fencing)                                       |
| EC 9.3 | Promote sustainable silvicultural practices, supply chain development and markets to grow the hardwood timber sector  |
| EC 9.4 | Continue to support the use and development of machinery rings to provide specialist equipment to improve the attractiveness and viability of farm woodland |
| EC 9.5 | Promote the development of land management plans as a tool for improving timber quality and output while delivering more sustainable woodland management    |

### Encouraging hardwood production

**6.37** In much of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, broadleaves grow well – as illustrated by the ancient woodland resource of the Clyde and Avon Valleys. Field trees, shelter belts and small-scale broadleaved woodlands are an also important aspect of landscape character across the lowland portion of the region. There is potential for new planting of native broadleaves for timber production in these contexts, contributing to restoration of landscape structure and creating a viable resource for the future.

**6.38** Similarly, bringing existing mixed and broadleaved woodlands into positive management could also provide a supply of high-quality hardwood.

**6.39** Local authorities could also play a significant role in kick-starting the hardwood sector by strategically managing their woodland estates to provide an income stream to fund environmental enhancement projects.

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| EC 10.1 | Encourage landowners to bring woodland into positive management to build hardwood supply chains  |
| EC 10.2 | Highlight the potential for hardwood timber production to provide a catalyst for environmental enhancement                                   |
| EC 10.3 | Promote planting of broadleaves for timber production to strengthen and restore landscape structure and character                            |
| EC 10.4 | Minimise the loss of existing woodland through the rigorous application of the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal |

### Biomass

**6.40** Research carried out for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership, Scottish Forestry and Scottish Enterprise<sup>39</sup> confirmed the potential to establish a viable biomass market in the region. This requires there to be an established demand for wood fuel, a sustainable supply and an effective processing and distribution network.

**6.41** There is already some demand for woodfuel with a number of large biomass boilers installed and major schemes such as the wood fuelled power station at Lockerbie and the power plant at Caledonian Paper at Irvine in Ayrshire creating demand at a wider level. The public sector has a continuing role to play in demonstrating the viability of wood fuel as an energy source and encouraging private companies and householders to adopt the technology. The planning process can also promote the use of wood fuel within low carbon developments.

**6.42** While there is potential to establish new woodlands to provide a source of woody biomass, the greatest scope lies in the management of existing woodland across the region, which has the capacity to support the predicted domestic and small-scale industrial demand.

**6.43** One of the main barriers to realising this potential is the low levels of awareness among many landowners, with a high proportion of existing woodlands remaining unmanaged when they could be providing a source of fuel and a viable income stream. There is also scope to maximise the harvest potential from productive sites to support the biomass industry.

**6.44** There also needs to be an effective processing and distribution network to connect these growing sources of supply and demand. Wood fuel is a bulk material and transport costs can be relatively high. Processing plants and depots typically draw material from a radius of up to 50 miles, supply customers within 20 miles. This suggests that a number of processing plants will be needed to cover the main centres of population and that demand for timber from existing or new woodlands will be concentrated in areas closest to these plants.

**6.45** Considerable success has already been delivered through partnership working between the Central Scotland Forest Trust, CSGN and North Lanarkshire Council – through the Lanarkshire Biomass project – converting four public buildings to biomass heat, planting vacant and derelict land with energy crops and developing a woodfuel depot at Strathclyde Country Park.

<sup>39</sup> John Clegg Consulting Ltd, The Campbell Palmer Partnership Ltd and Cawdor Forestry Ltd

December 2007  
[www.gcvgreenetwork.gov.uk/component/option,com\\_docman/Itemid,53/qid,163/task,cat\\_view/](http://www.gcvgreenetwork.gov.uk/component/option,com_docman/Itemid,53/qid,163/task,cat_view/)

|         |  |
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| EC 11.1 | Establish and monitor regional demand for wood fibre from the biomass sector to understand effects on local markets  |
| EC 11.2 | Encourage the management of existing woodlands to provide wood fuel and income for woodland owners   |
| EC 11.3 | Encourage management of existing woodland for woodfuel by highlighting the financial benefits and sharing best practice among land owners and managers   |
| EC 11.4 | Work with partners, stakeholders and landowners to prioritise the creation of new areas of biomass on vacant and derelict land, and in areas where farming is less viable  |
| EC 11.5 | Encourage local authorities and businesses to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Renewable Heat Incentive when procuring or refurbishing buildings stock   |
| EC 11.6 | Support the development of a market for wood fuel by encouraging public sector organisations to take the lead on biomass boiler procurement, raising awareness among developers and householders, and liaising with regulators to providing clear guidance on the use of biomass equipment in Smoke Control Areas and Air Quality Management Areas |
| EC 11.7 | Support the creation of an efficient processing and distribution network for wood fuel   |
| EC 11.8 | Facilitate engagement between the biomass sector and local planning authorities to ensure that future processing capacity can be delivered in the right locations  |

### Timber transport, processing and local markets

**6.46** The Clydeplan area does not currently host any major timber processing sites. However, the region's excellent transport network, for example the Eurocentral Freight Terminal, facilitates easy access to nearby sites at Cardross, Irvine, Ayr, Troon and Auchinleck. There are, however, smaller-scale wood-using businesses ranging from a paper mill to musical instrument manufacturers.

**6.47** While major developments in large-scale processing infrastructure are not anticipated, there is potential for the development of a network of smaller-scale sites catering to specific local markets.

**6.48** Some productive forests in the region lack suitable access and have poor internal road networks – such as those in the Kilpatrick Hills. Partnership solutions will be necessary to facilitate the development of suitable infrastructure to

enable harvesting, restructuring and restocking. The Timber Transport Forum and the Strategic Timber Transport Fund will continue to be important means of achieving such objectives and reducing transport impacts on communities and the road network. The Ayrshire & South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Forum brings together woodland owners, agents, hauliers and timber processors to resolve any timber transport issues. Plans for new productive woodlands should ensure that suitable access can be maintained over the lifetime of the forest.

**6.49** The majority of the region's forest products are moved by road. This is likely to continue throughout the lifetime of the FWS, but ensuring that emissions are reduced and impacts on communities and the road network are minimised is a priority.

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| EC 12.1 | Support and secure sites through liaison with local authorities and the <a href="#">Ayrshire &amp; South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group</a> |
| EC 12.2 | Survey and review industrial locations and identify appropriate sites for future forestry sector development                                    |

### Encouraging the wider use of timber in construction

**6.50** Given the amount of construction activity taking place across the region, there is considerable potential to encourage the use of local timber as a building material. In Scotland, timber frame construction accounts for approximately 75% of all new housing<sup>40</sup>. The use of timber in construction can help reduce carbon emissions associated with the manufacture and transportation of more energy intensive materials such as steel and concrete. Timber construction can also lock up considerable quantities of carbon for the lifetime of the building.

**6.51** Scottish timber is increasingly recognised as a high quality and sustainable building material, with strong links to vernacular styles and applications in cutting edge architecture alike.

**6.52** The public sector has an important role to play in raising awareness of timber in construction. Scottish Forestry has published guidance designed to publicise the use of local timber in sustainable construction (see [Sustainable Timber Construction](#))<sup>41</sup>. The Scottish Government is working to support the supply chain for wood products in construction and the development of a UK market focus of the use of Scottish wood products in order to encourage private investment. Energy efficiency through the use of wood products can be supported through the planning and building

<sup>40</sup> Scottish Forestry, 2009. *Sustainable Construction Timber: Sourcing and specifying local timber* [pdf]. Available at: <http://www.forestryscotland.com/products-and-markets/sustainable-construction-materials>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.forestryscotland.com/media/319379/sustainable%20construction%20timber.pdf>



control processes which can also promote the use of local timber as a low carbon, versatile construction material.

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| EC<br>12.3 | Encourage the use of locally sourced timber as a building material by local businesses and stakeholder organisations. |
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## Chapter 7

### Community

#### Introduction

**7.1** Trees and woodlands can contribute to quality of life, supporting the development of healthy and sustainable communities through the enhancing the quality of the immediate environment. The Strategy seeks to maximise community benefit from forests and woodlands through a variety of means, including new opportunities for woodland projects, facilitating community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership, and maximising the benefits for active recreation, education, training and the development of social enterprises.

**7.2** The Strategy will provide a means of delivering the woodland required to contribute to the delivery of the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) and local authority Open Space and Access Strategies

**7.3** The Strategy aims to maximise the contribution of trees and woodlands to quality of life under the following objectives:

- Facilitating community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership.
- Supporting community enterprise and development.
- Supporting opportunities for education and lifelong learning.
- Contributing to physical and mental wellbeing.
- Enhancing local sense of place and promoting connections to the wider environment.

#### Facilitating community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership

**7.4** There is significant scope for communities to become more actively engaged in planning, developing, managing and maintaining woodlands across the Clydeplan area. Community involvement in woodland planning and management utilises local and user knowledge, ideas, skills and expertise which ensures the long-term sustainability of the woodland.

**7.5** Scotland has a vibrant community woodland sector with over 200 groups involved in or responsible for the

management of thousands of hectares of woodland<sup>42</sup>. Community involvement ranges from partial or complete ownership through to small-scale informal activities, such as community litter picks or tree planting.

**7.6** There are particular opportunities to support community involvement close to urban areas. The Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) initiative is one of the most significant initiatives undertaken by Scottish Forestry, and its partners, to highlight the role of urban woodland management in delivering economic, environmental and social benefits. This initiative has particularly benefitted woodlands in Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire and has included urban forest management operations, creating paths, installing signage and seating, and delivering a programme of forest education and community engagement.

**7.7** Examples of successful WIAT projects in the Clydeplan area include Castlemilk and Drumchapel Woods (Glasgow), Windyhill (Renfrewshire), Riccard Johnson (North Lanarkshire), and K-Woodlands winners of Scottish Finest Woods Award, who are providing Community Engagement activities and growing projects within the woodland environment (South Lanarkshire).

**7.8** As part of the Bishop's Loch WIAT initiative, work with local schools since 2004 has introduced hundreds of local school children to their local woodland environment, along with delivering the 'Health Walks' and 'Branching Out' services, contributing to improved physical and mental health.

**7.9** Organisations including The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Scottish Forestry, Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT), Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and local authority partners have gained substantial experience in assisting community groups and acting as catalysts for action on the ground. They have a key role to play in supporting encouraging communities to become involved in woodland projects.

**7.10** Forestry and Land Scotland's Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) was launched in January 2017. Community organisations have a right to request to take over publicly-owned land or buildings that they feel they can make better use of for local people. These community empowerment rights apply to all land and buildings managed by Forestry and Land Scotland. Since the scheme launched in January 2017, a total of 12 requests have been received, 11 have been approved, of which five transfers have completed. To date, none of the community asset transfer schemes have been within the Clyde Valley.

**7.11** Woodlands can also be used to support volunteering and training initiatives which can help people gain skills and confidence in addition to improving their health and well-being.

**7.12** The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 creates a range of opportunities for local people to take a more active role in woodland ownership and management. It is intended to, among other things, expand the 'community right to buy' provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 to enable certain community bodies to buy abandoned, under-used or neglected land and buildings – even where the property is not on the open market. It also confers the ability for communities to take over ownership, rental or management of public assets (including woodland), with the agreement of the Scottish Government, where their plans are of more public benefit than current uses. Linwood Community Woodland is an example where a local authority is already using the Community Asset Transfer provisions of the Act to enable local communities to play an active role in the management of woodland resources.

**7.13** It adds to the potential for communities to take a leading role in managing local environments – but also places a responsibility on public bodies to understand their land holdings and respond positively to community aspirations.

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| COM 1.1 | Support community involvement to manage woodland projects, especially through mentoring and co-ordinating delivery of activity on the ground.  |
| COM 1.2 | Work with the sector, land managers and stakeholders - including the Central Scotland Green Network Trust - to highlight the benefits of community engagement and participation in woodland planning and development processes |
| COM 1.3 | Encourage stewardship of woodlands by and for local people and support the development of the necessary skill base to deliver meaningful engagement and long-term management   |
| COM 1.4 | Support the delivery of training to forest and land managers to help provide the tools for positive and productive community and stakeholder engagement  |
| COM 1.5 | Support and facilitate capacity-building through Community Planning Partnerships and relevant community-based structures   |
| COM 1.6 | Work with Government, local authorities and key stakeholders to understand and develop opportunities arising from the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.   |

<sup>42</sup> Community Woodland Association, 2014. *Welcome to the CWA* [online]. Available at: <http://www.communitywoods.org/> [Accessed 22 August 2014]

## Supporting community enterprise and development

**7.14** Over the last ten years there has been growing interest in the potential contribution that social enterprises can make to society<sup>43</sup>. It has been suggested that they can help to create a more ethical, sustainable and socially inclusive economy and can support community empowerment, facilitate social inclusion and generate social capital.

**7.15** Woodland-based community enterprises can help create training or employment opportunities based on activities such as tree planting, forest management, timber harvesting and processing. In addition to traditional woodland enterprises, other enterprise opportunities exist such as country sports (e.g. hunting and shooting), and the production of venison, charcoal, crafts and firewood. Social enterprises have, for example, focused on managing woodlands as a source of woodfuel for the local community. There are also opportunities in the provision of recreation, adventure play, team building and other commercial leisure activities, which all add value to the local economy.

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| COM 2.1 | Support the establishment of community and social enterprises with a woodland and/or forestry dimension. |
| COM 2.2 | Support the delivery of training to emerging woodland-focussed community and social enterprises.         |

## Supporting opportunities for education and lifelong learning

**7.16** Clydeplan's woodlands have the scope to support wider economic and social objectives, such as training and education and addressing social inclusion.

**7.17** Presently, Clydeplan's woodlands are being used for a variety of outdoor learning initiatives to deliver the Curriculum for Excellence, including the Outdoor & Woodland Learning (OWL) Scotland (previously known as the Forest Education Initiative). OWL Scotland aims to increase the understanding and appreciation, particularly among young people, of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests. The initiative promotes the concept of Forest Schools and Forest Kindergarten which involve small groups of children or adults visiting local woodlands every one or two weeks to take part in a range of forest-based activities. Uptake across the region is already high and increasing, including participation in training across North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Glasgow City.

**7.18** Funds from CSGN have been invested in supporting schools develop outdoor learning resources, including the following projects:

- Allanton Primary Nursery Class (North Lanarkshire) was awarded a grant to transform their overgrown nursery garden.
- Our Lady and St Joseph's Nursery Class (North Lanarkshire) was awarded a grant to further develop their pre-existing Forest Kindergarten project.
- Townhill Primary School (South Lanarkshire) was granted funding to increase and enhance opportunities for outdoor learning.
- Linnvale Primary Eco Group in Clydeplan (West Dunbartonshire) was granted funding to create an outdoor learning garden.

**7.19** While the CSGN 'Learning Outdoors Fund' has now closed, these projects highlight the value and potential of helping the next generation connect with their environment, and in helping meet increase in early learning and childcare hours.

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|---------|--|
| COM 3.1 | Increase awareness of the role of woodlands as an outdoor learning resource and a resource for education, training and lifelong learning |
| COM 3.2 | Promote the development and delivery of woodland-based education programmes in the Clydeplan area  |
| COM 3.3 | Work with partners and stakeholders to help connect potential volunteers to suitable projects and programmes                             |

## Contributing to physical and mental health and wellbeing

**7.20** There is growing awareness of the value of woodlands, forests and other open greenspaces in providing opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, together with activities like orienteering and geocaching. The Woodland Access Standard is an aspirational benchmark created by the Woodland Trust in 2004 and supported by the Forestry Commission. This focuses on towns and cities and the provision of accessible woodland close to people's homes. The Woodland Trust's VisitWoods project has mapped a number of accessible woodlands across the Clydeplan area. These include community woodlands, privately owned woodlands with public access, RSPB woodlands, and Scottish Forestry owned woodlands, with many of the woodlands including Core Paths, local paths and longer distance routes.

<sup>43</sup> There is no Scotland-specific legal definition of a 'social enterprise', but the [Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprise in Scotland](#) establishes five,

generally understood, criteria for social enterprises and a system of values and behaviours. These are more stringent than the legal equivalents in England.

**7.21** Poor physical and mental health, and health inequality – as illustrated in Figure 6.1 – are a feature of many of Clydeplan’s settlements. Access to high quality woodlands close to where people live can bring significant health benefits by providing places for outdoor recreation and relaxation both in rural and urban areas. There is a need to raise wider awareness of opportunities for woodland based recreation, and to provide people with confidence to get involved. This includes ensuring that individuals from all sections of society are able to enjoy and benefit from woodlands and forests across the Clydeplan area. Information and interpretation may use a combination of way-marked routes, leaflets, signboards and ranger led walks, together with digital and social media, web-based learning and location-aware mobile technology more suited to younger audiences.

**7.22** The value of woodland and outdoor activity and learning has already made a substantive difference to people with mental health issues, through the ‘Branching Out’ programme. This project engages clients referred on by mental health services in a 12-week programme of cooperative woodland-based conservation activities, shelter construction, ‘bushcraft’ and more general outdoor skills to help build self-esteem, confidence and social skills. Originally conceived in partnership by SF, Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the ‘Branching Out’ programme is currently available in the NHS board areas of Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lanarkshire, Tayside, Fife, Lothian, Borders, Highland, Forth Valley and Argyshire and Arran.

**7.23** An innovative project at Gartnavel Royal Hospital, Glasgow by The Green Exercise Partnership is using greenspace and woodland to help patients’ recovery and improve the health of staff, visitors and the community. Walking routes have been introduced around the hospital buildings with over 150 fruit and native trees planted along the routes.

**7.24** Green Gyms® provide opportunities for individuals to connect with nature and their community, and to create high quality and sustainable green spaces. Opportunities should be explored to set up wellbeing initiatives (e.g. Green Gyms, Branching Out) and projects for community capacity building through woodland projects. Scottish Forestry’s Active Woods Campaign is an example of a programme that encourages the greater use of woodlands.

**7.25** Paths for All, in partnership with Scottish Forestry, are promoting walking for health and the development of multi-use path networks in Scotland’s woodlands. For example, the 14 ‘Commonwealth Woods’ developed or enhanced as part of the legacy for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| COM 4.1 | Promote the role of woodlands in providing a resource for physical activity, accessible to all parts of society close to where people live and work.  |
| COM 4.2 | Prioritise woodland based projects designed to deliver physical and mental health benefits, particularly in areas with higher levels of deprivation and poorer health.                                |
| COM 4.3 | Work to increase the appreciation and use of woodlands and forests by people from a wide range of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds and ensure that facilities and promotion are fully inclusive. |

## Enhancing local sense of place and promoting connections to the wider environment

**7.26** Like many other parts of Central Scotland, industrial development during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries has left a legacy of damaged and degraded land across the Clydeplan area. Much of this is concentrated in and around the area’s main settlements and coalfields, often compounding problems of social deprivation and poor health. Tackling these post-industrial landscapes is a key objective of the Central Scotland Green Network, and this Strategy provides a means of focusing environmental enhancement where it is needed most.

**7.27** Quarrying and coal mining is still a feature of the Clydeplan landscape today, with approximately 36 individual quarries and coal mines, the majority of which are located in the South Lanarkshire Council area, although there are no longer active open cast sites in South Lanarkshire. There is potential for restoring these sites once extraction is complete, with successful restoration projects within the Clydeplan area including at Drumbrow coal mine (North Lanarkshire) and Damside opencast coal site (North Lanarkshire). Mainhill former open case site near Douglas is a recent example of where mixed woodland is being used for restoration. However, some sites remain un-restored, with increasing risks of pollution and flooding due to deterioration of such sites. New native, softwood, mixed and energy woodlands can make an important contribution to restoring these landscapes by securing environmental improvement.

**7.28** Access to high quality woodlands close to where people live can bring significant community benefits by providing places for recreation and learning both in rural areas and in and around towns. Community woodlands and Scottish Forestry’s Woodland Improvement Grants and Sustainable Forest Management Grants schemes have played an important role in increasing public access to woodlands in the Clydeplan area. The Woodland Improvement Grants and Sustainable Forest Management Grants available in the Forestry Grant Scheme should be fully utilised to continue to

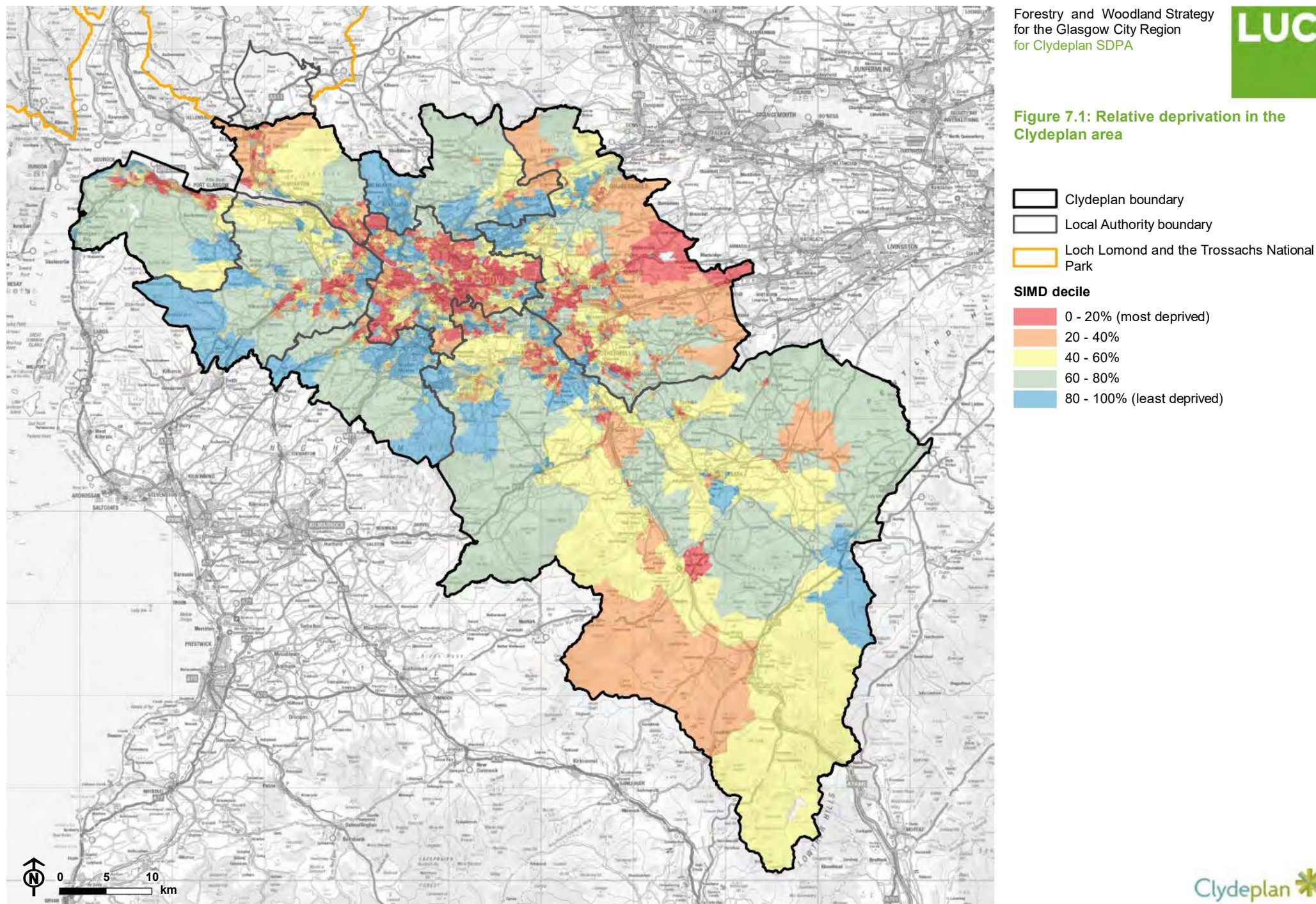


improve public access and the sustainable management of urban woodlands in the Clydeplan area.

**7.29** Development of woodlands close to where people live and work can help reinforce and, in places, restore a strong sense of place, supporting the placemaking agenda. A strong sense of place, together with more involved and empowered communities, will help engender local identity and a growing sense of pride in local communities. For example, the restoration of Castlemilk Woodlands has created a sense of place and enhanced community pride by transforming the quality of the environment of an under-used landscape.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| COM 5.1 | Target management and woodland creation activity on areas of degraded environmental quality.   |
| COM 5.2 | Promote stronger links between local cultural activities and woodland environments, identifying opportunities for woodland-based activities, where possible. |
| COM 5.3 | Work with partners and stakeholders to identify opportunities for enhanced cultural provision in and around Clydeplan's woodlands.                           |
| COM 5.4 | Work with partners, land managers and communities to ensure that new woodlands are designed to reflect and enhance local townscape and landscape character.  |

Figure 7.1: Relative deprivation in the  
Clydeplan area



## Chapter 8

### Environment

#### Introduction

**8.1** The Clydeplan area benefits from a rich natural and cultural heritage that provides a strong sense of place and local distinctiveness and which underpins the area's economic, environmental and cultural life.

**8.2** Clydeplan's trees and woodlands make a substantial contribution to urban and rural landscapes, providing a range of natural and semi-natural habitats and forming an integral part of the area's historic environment. It is also increasingly recognised that trees can play an important role in creating a resilient and healthy environment contributing to sustainable flood management, and to the quality of rivers, soils and air. The Strategy aims to increase this contribution, helping to create a richer and more diverse environment.

**8.3** This part of the Strategy aims to conserve and enhance Clydeplan's natural and cultural heritage under the following objectives:

- Improve the condition and resilience of biodiversity.
- Support the Central Scotland Green Network.
- Improve woodland's contribution to ecosystem restoration.
- Contribute to the conservation, enhancement and understanding of Clydeplan's valued natural heritage and historic environment.

#### Improve the condition and resilience of biodiversity

**8.4** Woodlands within Glasgow and the Clyde Valley provide rich and varied habitats for wildlife. Existing ancient or long-established native or semi-natural woodlands tend to be concentrated along the river valleys of the Clyde, Leven, Avon, and Calders and in the foothills of the Campsie and Kilsyth Hills and Kilpatrick Hills. Most native woodland is found along rivers and burns where steep grazing have made cultivation and grazing difficult.

#### Enhancing woodland habitats

**8.5** Clydeplan's native woodlands, comprising approximately 13,000 hectares, are a key component of the area's



biodiversity value. Many of the area's native woodlands are designated as SSSI for their habitat value, with the finest of these – notably the Clyde Valley Woodlands – being recognised as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and by European designations (SAC). As noted above, much of this resource clings to steep-sided river valleys and has survived because of its isolation from human activity. However, other significant woodland habitats in the region only exist because of many generations of positive management. For example, Hamilton High Parks, once part of the extensive Hamilton estates, preserves one of the best examples of lowland wood pasture in Scotland. With veteran trees dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, they are nationally significant for both their natural and cultural heritage value and represent the relics of many phases of landscape development. As Diagram 8.1 below illustrates, the native woodlands of the region are rich and varied in habitat type. While lowland mixed deciduous woodland makes up the majority of the resource, wet woodland is a particularly important component, accounting for almost a quarter of the region's native woodlands.

**8.6** Across the area, levels of woodland habitat connectivity are reasonable in comparison to other parts of Central Scotland, due in part to recent environmental enhancement initiatives and extant Improvement-era landscape structure. However, enhancing these connections will be an important means of improving the climate resilience of woodland species. Here, mixed and non-native broadleaved woodlands also have a contribution to make, providing physical and functional links, particularly where native networks are currently fragmented. The habitat value of such woodlands can be greatly improved by including native woodland corridors as part of long term management plans and processes. Reinforcing existing and establishing new links between Clydeplan's woodlands and those in neighbouring

authorities is critical as neither species nor the effects of climate change recognise administrative boundaries. Ongoing collaboration and partnership working with neighbouring authorities and cross-boundary land owners will be valuable in delivering resilient networks.

**8.7** In the past, some areas of productive forestry were planted on ancient, semi-natural and long-established woodland sites. Between the 1930s and the early 1980s it is estimated that nearly 40% of the ancient semi-natural woodlands in the UK were lost in this way<sup>44</sup>. Within the Clydeplan area, the remaining ancient woodlands are few in number and largely fragmented, and some have been felled and replanted, sometimes with non-native species.

**8.8** The process of restructuring planted conifer woodlands following harvesting creates an important opportunity to re-establish a functioning native woodland ecosystem on ancient woodland sites where key woodland species or fragments of the ancient woodland survive.

**8.9** Ecosystem restoration work should prioritise Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) (comprising approximately 556 hectares within Clydeplan) where relict features, flora or a viable seedbank survives, or where the woods could make a significant contribution to wider habitat networks. This has been done through the Chatelherault Woodland Management Plan where areas of non-native conifer plantation have been removed and allowed to convert back to native woodland.

**8.10** The Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) Habitats and Species grant should be utilised to its full potential to help encourage natural regeneration which will benefit priority habitats and species in the Clydeplan area. In addition, the Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) Native Woodlands grant should be utilised to restore PAWS to native woodland.

<sup>44</sup> Thompson, R.N., Humphrey, J.W., Harmer, R. & Ferris, R., 2003. *Restoration of native woodland on ancient woodland sites*. Edinburgh: Forestry Commission



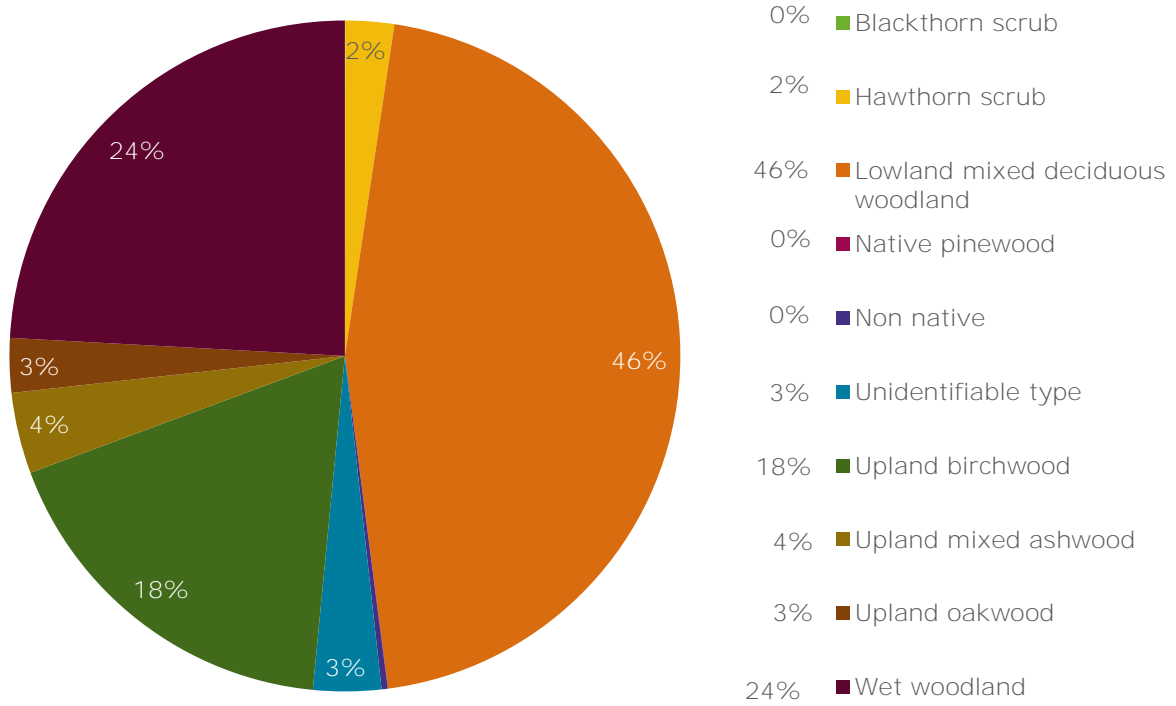


Diagram 8.1: Composition of the Clydeplan area's native woodlands (NWSS 2014)

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| ENV 1.1 | Promote the positive management and expansion of International and UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority woodland habitats, including semi-natural ancient woodlands.  |
| ENV 1.2 | Promote woodland creation to build strategic habitat network links to between core areas.   |
| ENV 1.3 | Promote partnership working between land managers to ensure 'joined-up' management of linear woodlands.   |
| ENV 1.4 | Work with agency partners and neighbouring authorities to deliver opportunities for cross-boundary enhancement of woodland habitat networks.  |
| ENV 1.5 | Promote the restoration of native woodland in former native, ancient, and semi-natural woodland, and encourage appropriate management of existing Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites including habitat enhancement for key native species. |
| ENV 1.6 | Promote the potential opportunities for woodland habitats to contribute to the greening measures supported through rural grant funding.   |

### Conserving non-woodland habitats and species

**8.11** In addition to its woodland, the Clydeplan area also contains a number of important non-woodland habitats that need to be considered in planning for woodland expansion and management. The Clydeplan area contains five Special Protection Areas<sup>45</sup> and 10 Special Areas of Conservation<sup>46</sup>, and 125 SSSIs. Designated non-woodland habitats include:

- Blanket bog in the uplands, for example, in West Fannyside Moss SAC.
- Lowland raised bog. Examples include Red Moss SAC, Black Loch Moss SAC, Braehead Moss SAC, Cranley Moss SAC, Coalburn Moss SAC, North Shotts Moss SAC, Red Moss SAC, and Waukenwae Moss SAC.
- Species rich grassland in the uplands, for example, in the small section of the Craigengar SAC which is within the Clydeplan boundary.
- SPA species supporting habitats – Black Cart (whooper swan), Inner Clyde (redshank), Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands (hen harrier, short-eared owl, peregrine, golden plover, merlin), Renfrewshire Heights (hen harrier), and Slamannan Plateau (taiga bean goose).

**8.12** It is important that measures to expand the area of woodland within the Clydeplan area do not result in damage or

loss of other important habitats. The design and location of schemes should therefore have regard to designated sites and the Clydeplan local authorities Local Biodiversity Action Plans to ensure that adverse effects on protected and priority species and habitats are avoided. Designated areas of high natural heritage value have been included in the 'sensitive' category in the detailed mapping and analysis accompanying this Strategy. However, it is important to ensure that site-specific assessments of woodland creation proposals give appropriate consideration to significant, but undesignated, habitats – such as the transition habitats between areas of wetland, grassland and woodland habitats.

### Woodland and the Habitats Regulations

Clydeplan contains 5 **Special Protection Areas**, designated, and 10 **Special Areas of Conservation**. These areas are of international and significance and are therefore subject to extensive protection under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended – generally known as the 'Habitats Regulations.' Consequently, all of these areas have been included within the 'sensitive' land class in the spatial modelling work undertaken in the production of this Strategy.

The quality and integrity of designated features often depend on ecological features and functions outside the designated area. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive requires member states to encourage the management of features in the landscape that are of major importance to wild flora and fauna and contribute to the ecological coherence of the European Site Network.

**Proposals for woodland creation or management within, or likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying interests of, a European site will be required to be subject to Habitats Regulations Appraisal.**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ENV 1.7 | Ensure woodland expansion does not have an adverse impact on nationally or internationally important non-woodland habitats and respects locally important biodiversity assets. |
|---------|--|

### Tackling invasive non-native species

**8.13** Invasive non-native species of plants and animals pose a significant and growing threat to Scotland's biodiversity – and the Clydeplan area is no exception. Plants and animals introduced to areas outside of their natural range often have

<sup>45</sup> Slamannan Plateau, Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands, Inner Clyde, Renfrewshire Heights, and Black Cart.

<sup>46</sup> Black Loch Moss, Braehead Moss, Craigengar, Cranley Moss, Clyde Valley Woods, Coalburn Moss, North Shotts Moss, Red Moss, West Fannyside Moss, and Waukenwae Moss.

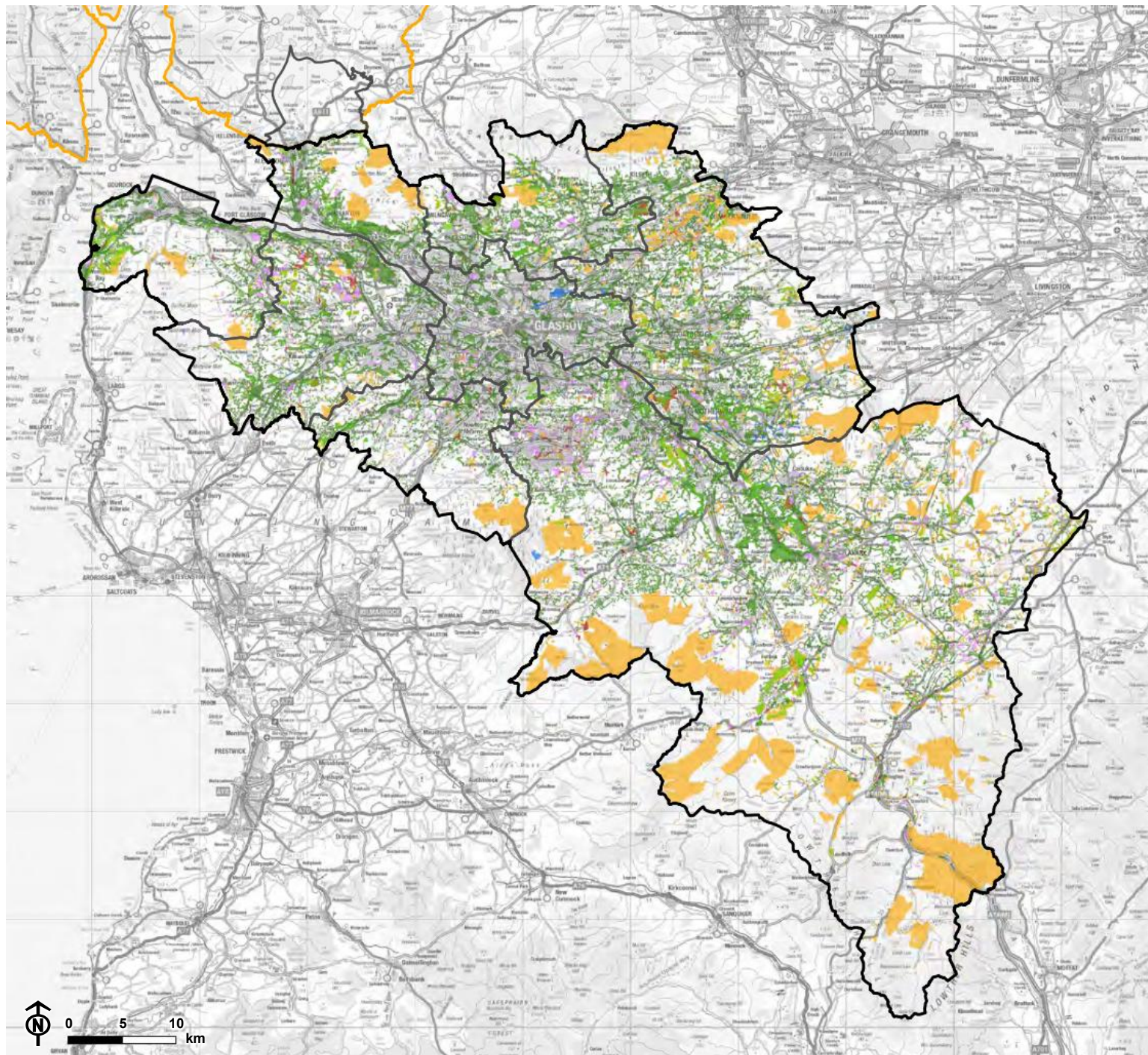
few potential predators and are frequently able to out-compete indigenous species occupying a similar ecological niche.

**8.14** Riparian habitats are particularly susceptible to invasive plants, as seeds and other plant material can be quickly and widely spread by the action of the water. As these areas are often relatively undisturbed, even in urban areas, populations of invasive species can become well established without being noticed – making the issue harder to tackle.

**8.15** Tree seedlings from non-native coniferous plantation can also impact on habitats through uncontrolled regeneration, and action needs to be taken to manage these effects.

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| ENV<br>1.8 | Support efforts to identify, manage and eradicate invasive non-native species in the Glasgow City Region.   |
| ENV<br>1.9 | Promote partnership working between managers to ensure coordinated delivery of efforts to tackle non-native invasive species through the production of biosecurity plans to prevent spread. |





**Figure 8.1: Ancient and Semi-Natural Ancient Woodland**





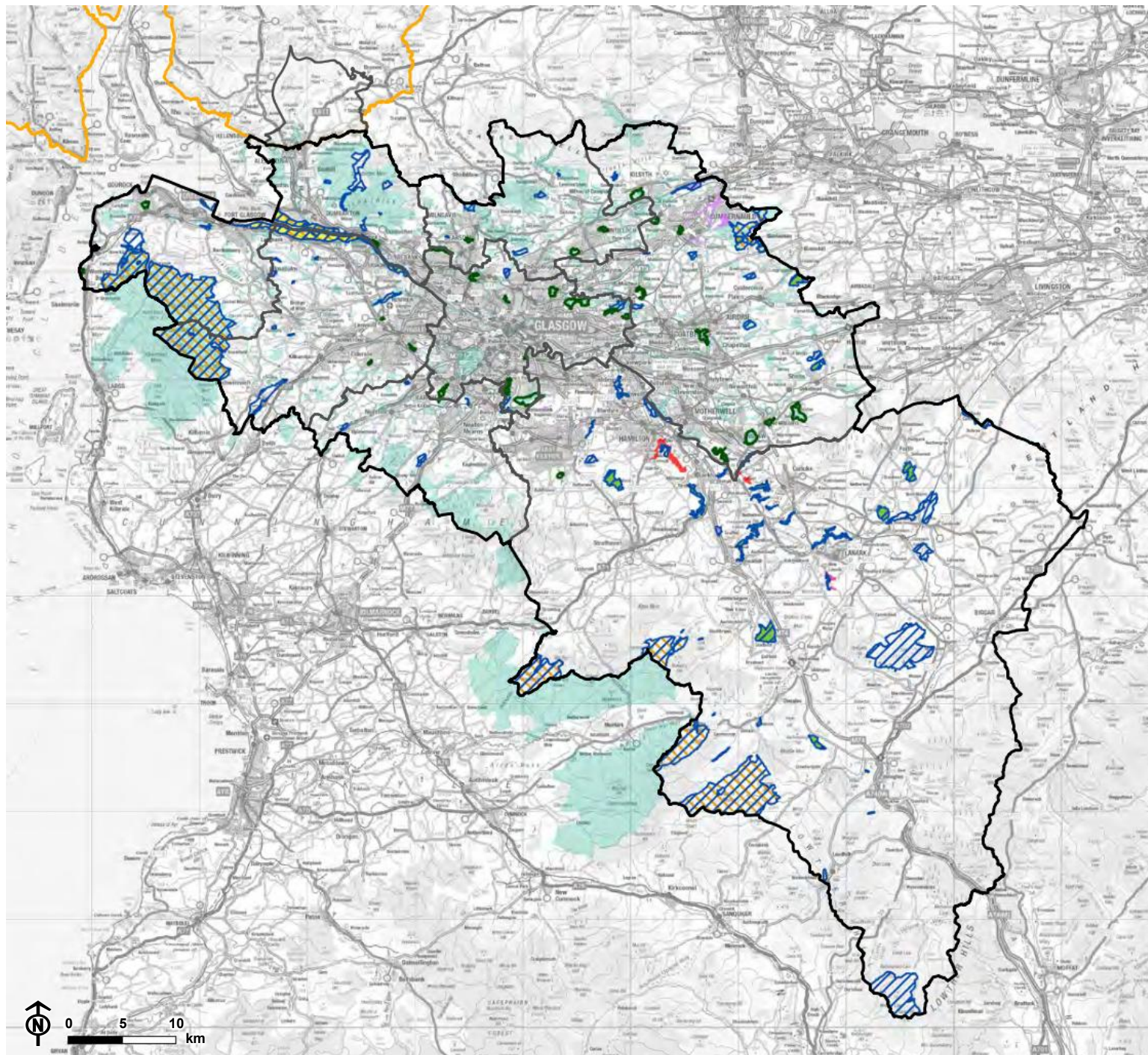


Figure 8.2: Natural Heritage Destinations

- Clydeplan boundary
- Local Authority boundary
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Ramsar
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- National Nature Reserve
- Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Nature Conservation Site

Note: South Lanarkshire Council do not have any local nature conservation site designations

## Supporting the Central Scotland Green Network

**8.16** This Strategy is intended to align closely with CSGN priorities and principles and provide a tool to enable land managers to access funding opportunities and ensure their woodland creation proposal is fit for purpose with regard to the wider aims of CSGN. However, in addition to promoting links within the CSGN and GCVGN, the Strategy recognises the importance of blue-green infrastructure projects, such as the EcoCo LIFE Project, which use planting to improve the riparian zone and morphology of the river, whilst providing additional benefits for biodiversity. Such planting can provide both environmental benefits for the water environment, and also socio-economic benefits for the local community by helping to improve health and wellbeing.

**8.17** Furthermore, the Strategy will align closely with The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Blueprint framework. This is a framework for the creation of a strategic Green Network for the benefit of people and wildlife in Glasgow City Region. It incorporates the fundamental functions of a Green Network: an Access Network and Habitat Network. The Blueprint identifies for both Networks:

- existing Green Network assets
- where protection and enhancements are required
- where there are gaps in the networks
- opportunities to address those gaps.

**8.18** Riparian woodland also plays an important role in improving bankside morphology, preventing poaching and mitigation against higher water temperatures. The eight Clydeplan local authorities<sup>47</sup> have signed up to CSGN's Local Authority Concordat and have pledged to embed CSGN in all relevant policies, strategies and plans and to ensure it is reflected in decision making. Longstanding partnership approaches have already delivered a range of transformative projects across Clydeplan, of which new woodland has often been a key part. Some of the most notable CSGN projects in Clydeplan include the reinvigoration of the Castlemilk Woodlands, and the development of a high-quality green network at Seven Lochs Wetland Park.

**8.19** The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is a national development in the Scottish Government's NPF3. With a wide-ranging remit, far beyond a 'green initiative', the CSGN aims to improve the vitality, health and well-being of

central Scotland, as well as making the area more resilient to climate change. Its main priorities as defined by NPF3 are:

- Remediation of derelict land;
- Prioritised action in disadvantaged communities; and
- Active travel.

**8.20** However, creating physical and functional links between urban centres and rural habitat, leisure and recreation attractions and potential business development opportunities underpins everything that the initiative does. Communicating this universal relevance is an important task for partners, particularly the CSGNT. Articulating the benefits of understanding and participating in the initiative to land managers could help to unlock both valuable links to help deliver the CSGN and business and development opportunities for local businesses and landowners.

**8.21** Similarly, networks are most successful when they benefit from good connectivity. To achieve this, significant cross-boundary cooperation between strategic and delivery partners is required. While much has been achieved by public sector partnership, particularly in developing strategic projects, there have comparatively few explicitly cross-boundary delivery projects – and even fewer involving private sector partners. Nationwide, as the majority of woodlands are created by the private sector, unlocking this source of investment in Clydeplan may be useful. CSGN is a strong, and widely recognised 'brand' that can help promote links between business and the community; highlight corporate social responsibility; and tap into potential markets.

**8.22** However, in addition to promoting links within the CSGN and GCVGN, the Strategy recognises the importance of blue-green infrastructure projects that use planting to improve the riparian zone and morphology of the river. Furthermore, such planting can provide benefits to the local community by helping to improve health and wellbeing and delivering other socio-economic benefits.

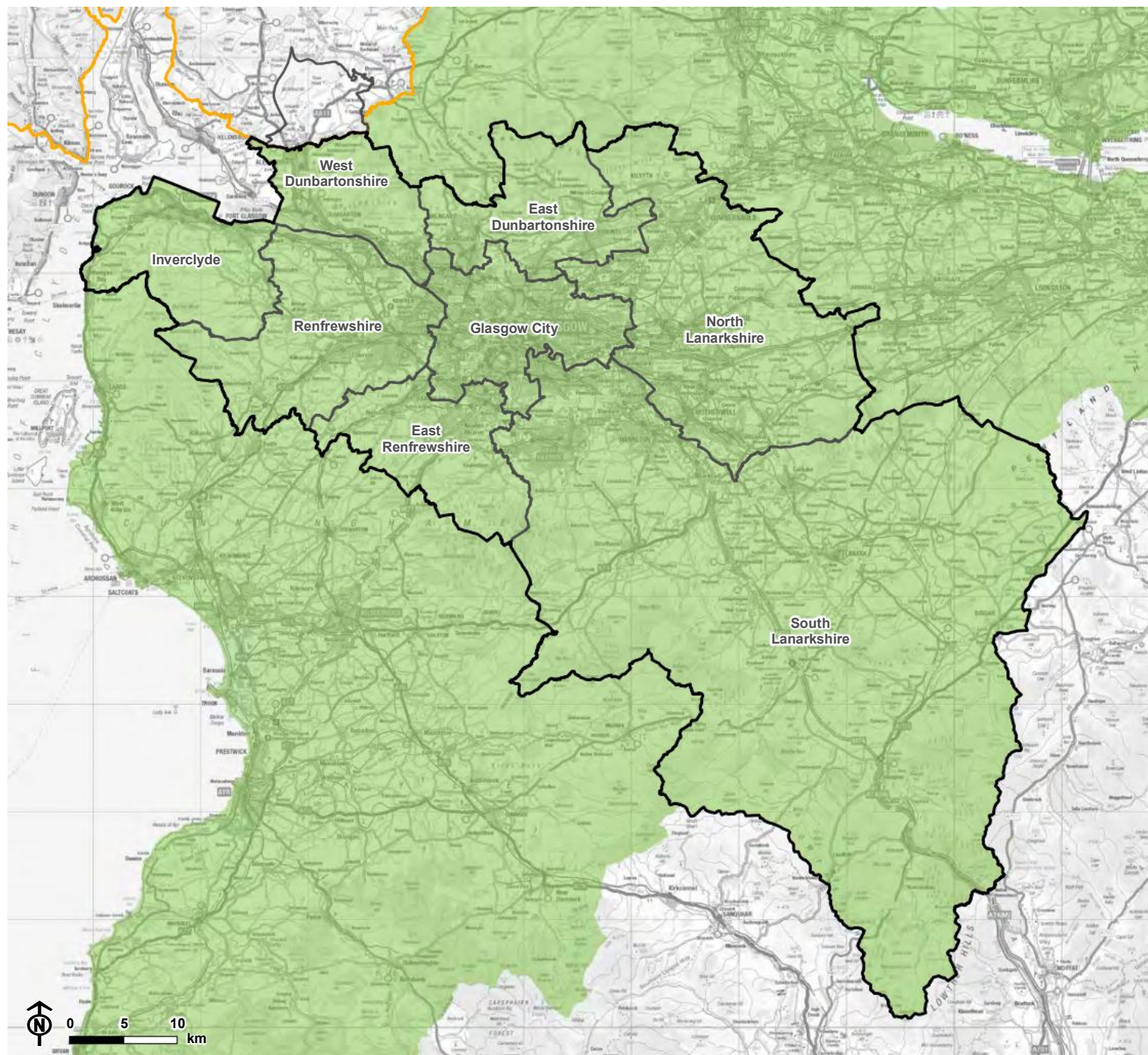
|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ENV 2.1 | Highlight and promote the benefits of participation in CSGN, and the availability of funding, to potential private sector partners in both urban and rural environments. |
| ENV 2.2 | Work with partners and stakeholder to identify the potential for cross-boundary opportunities and delivery mechanisms.   |
| ENV 2.3 | Promote the importance of, and opportunities for, rural business and land management in providing the nodes and links that make the green network function.              |





<sup>47</sup>East Dunbartonshire Council, East Renfrewshire Council, Glasgow City Council, Inverclyde Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Renfrewshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, as listed on:

<http://www.centalscotlandgreennetwork.org/partners/partner-directory/local-authority-partners>.



**Figure 8.3: Central Scotland Green Network**



-  Clydeplan boundary
-  Local Authority boundary
-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
-  CSGN activity area

## Improve woodland's contribution to the conservation and management of ecosystem services and functions

**8.23** Woodlands already make an important contribution to the quality of Clydeplan's environmental resources; 'scrubbing' pollutants from the air in urban areas and transport corridors, slowing flows of surface and flood waters and contributing to soil development and stability. However, there is potential for new and enhanced woodlands to make a greater contribution to these supporting and regulating services – as well as directly providing food and fibre (provisioning services).

### Water, air and soil quality

**8.24** As a requirement of the Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management Plans have been prepared for the Scotland River Basin District 2015-2027<sup>48</sup>. The ongoing process of producing River Basin Management Plans for Scotland is overseen at the national scale by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and implemented at a regional scale through partnership 'Area Advisory Groups' (AAGs). The Clyde Advisory Group has been established to co-ordinate and input to river basin planning across the area and to produce the Clyde Area Management Plan (AMP). The Clyde AMP provides detailed information on the current information of the water environment, the pressures and risks, and objectives for improvements.

**8.25** Within the Clyde AMP area, 42% of all water bodies are in good condition with 19% of moderate status and only 1% in high/maximum condition. Approximately, 37% of all water bodies are classified as being in poor or bad condition<sup>49</sup>. The Clyde advisory group has identified a number of pressures and risks on the water environment:

- Urban drainage;
- Diffuse pollution from rural sources; and,
- Managing the impacts from the regions industrial past

**8.26** As outlined in the Climate Change chapter of the Strategy, increased urbanisation causes problems with flash flooding after sudden rainfall as areas of vegetation have been replaced by impermeable concrete losing its ability to absorb rainwater. Trees, woodlands and greenspaces in urban areas, including green infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), protect the quality of urban environments by minimising surface water run-off and flood risk.

**8.27** Run-off entering watercourses is an important source of diffuse pollution. In rural areas, this can arise from livestock and farmyard effluent and agri-chemicals being washed into streams and rivers, or from stock directly entering watercourses. The creation of appropriate wooded and mosaic buffer strips adjacent to watercourses can intercept this pollution and make a substantial contribution to meeting land managers' cross-compliance objectives under SRDP. Riparian woodland also plays an important role in improving bankside morphology, preventing poaching and mitigation against higher water temperatures. SEPA recommend that only smaller tree species are planted adjacent to these buffer strips to minimise the volume of material that could potentially enter watercourses. Similarly, during harvesting, woody material should be stored away from watercourses and beyond the buffer strips so that this cannot be washed into the channel during a storm event. SEPA also recommend that an inspection and maintenance regime is implemented to ensure any material which does enter the watercourse can be removed as soon as possible.

**8.28** Expanded woodland networks in the corridors of roads, particularly motorways, and the rail lines, could help to reduce pollutant loads – especially particulate matter arising from diesel engines. There may be potential for woodland creation and expansion to significantly improve the air quality of the 15 Air Quality Management Areas.

**8.29** Woodland soils are generally excellent carbon stores, often holding around twice the amount of carbon stored in the trees<sup>50</sup>. In agricultural contexts, farm woodlands and shelter belts can play a key role in promoting soil stability, providing shelter to reduce wind erosion of ploughed fields and helping to reduce the intensity of rainfall, reducing run-off.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ENV 3.1 | Promote the benefits of riparian woodland in reducing rural diffuse pollution, contributing to enhanced water quality, and reducing the risk of flooding downstream. |
| ENV 3.2 | Encourage the planting of trees to filter and absorb air pollutants adjacent to transport corridors and other sources of air pollution.                              |
| ENV 3.3 | Highlight the value of farm woodland and shelter belts for improving soil quality and resilience.  |

### Regeneration of brownfield, vacant and derelict land

**8.30** As outlined in the Economy section above, industrial development during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and subsequent de-industrialisation from the 1970s onwards,

<sup>48</sup> SEPA, 2015. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/163445/the-river-basin-management-plan-for-the-scotland-river-basin-district-2015-2027.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> SEPA, 2014. *The water environment and achieving the environmental improvements* [online]. Available at:

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river\\_basin\\_planning/area\\_advisory\\_groups/clyde/condition\\_and\\_objectives.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning/area_advisory_groups/clyde/condition_and_objectives.aspx) [Accessed 16 December 2014]

<sup>50</sup> Forestry Commission, 2009. *Combating Climate Change: A Role for UK Forests*. Edinburgh: The Stationary Office.



has left an extensive legacy of vacant and derelict land right across the region.

**8.31** One of CSGN's key aims is to tackle Central Scotland's legacy of vacant and derelict land – often a relic of our recent **Table 8.1: Vacant and Derelict Land (as at 2019)**<sup>52</sup>

| Local authority     | Derelict Land (ha) | Urban Vacant Land (ha) | Total Derelict and Urban Vacant Land (ha) |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| East Dunbartonshire | 43                 | 25                     | 68  |
| East Renfrewshire   | 34                 | 16                     | 50  |
| Glasgow City        | 530                | 424                    | 954                                       |
| Inverclyde          | 59                 | 93                     | 151                                       |
| North Lanarkshire   | 1,218              | 169                    | 1,387                                     |
| Renfrewshire        | 149                | 82                     | 231                                       |
| South Lanarkshire   | 291                | 86                     | 377                                       |
| West Dunbartonshire | 148                | 15                     | 163                                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>2472</b>        | <b>910</b>             | <b>3381</b>                               |

industrial past. The Clydeplan area contains approximately 2,537 hectares of derelict land, and 892 hectares of urban vacant land, with sites in both town and country<sup>51</sup> (see Table 8.1).

**8.32** Trees and woodland can play a number of roles in helping to address this legacy. Planting on contaminated sites can help break down organic pollutants, reduce concentrations of heavy metals and contribute to improved soil quality, helping to unlock future sustainable uses and contribute to ecosystem restoration. Temporary greening of derelict sites can help to improve their appearance and environmental contribution, reducing the real or perceived 'blight' and helping to make places more attractive for prospective investors and residents alike. Similarly, the use of biomass crops in this context can help to provide landowners with an interim income while more permanent solutions are secured.

**8.33** It should, however, be noted that some brownfield sites – particularly those long-abandoned areas that nature has begun to reclaim – can have significant biodiversity value in their own right (as 'Open Mosaic Habitat on Previously Developed Land')<sup>53</sup>. **In recognition of the value of ecosystem restoration, it should not therefore be assumed that all brownfield sites can be either redeveloped or planted without detailed assessment of site-specific values and sensitivities.** There may, however, be opportunities for planting that can conserve key areas of

mosaic habitat while contributing to the development of woodland networks.

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| ENV 3.4 | Promote woodland creation on suitable derelict and contaminated sites as an integral part of site restoration soil and ecosystem restoration.                     |
| ENV 3.5 | Work with landowners and developers to identify opportunities for woodland as part of brownfield remediation programmes.  |
| ENV 3.6 | Work with landowners and managers to bring forward opportunities for temporary greening to improve the quality of degraded places and help to attract investment. |

<sup>51</sup> Scottish Government, 2020. *Scottish vacant and derelict Land Survey 2018* [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-vacant-derelict-land-survey-2019//> [Accessed 06 July 2020]

<sup>52</sup> Totals do not match due to rounding errors in source data.

<sup>53</sup> Recent research on this subject, by Buglife for SNH, is available on the [SNH website](#)

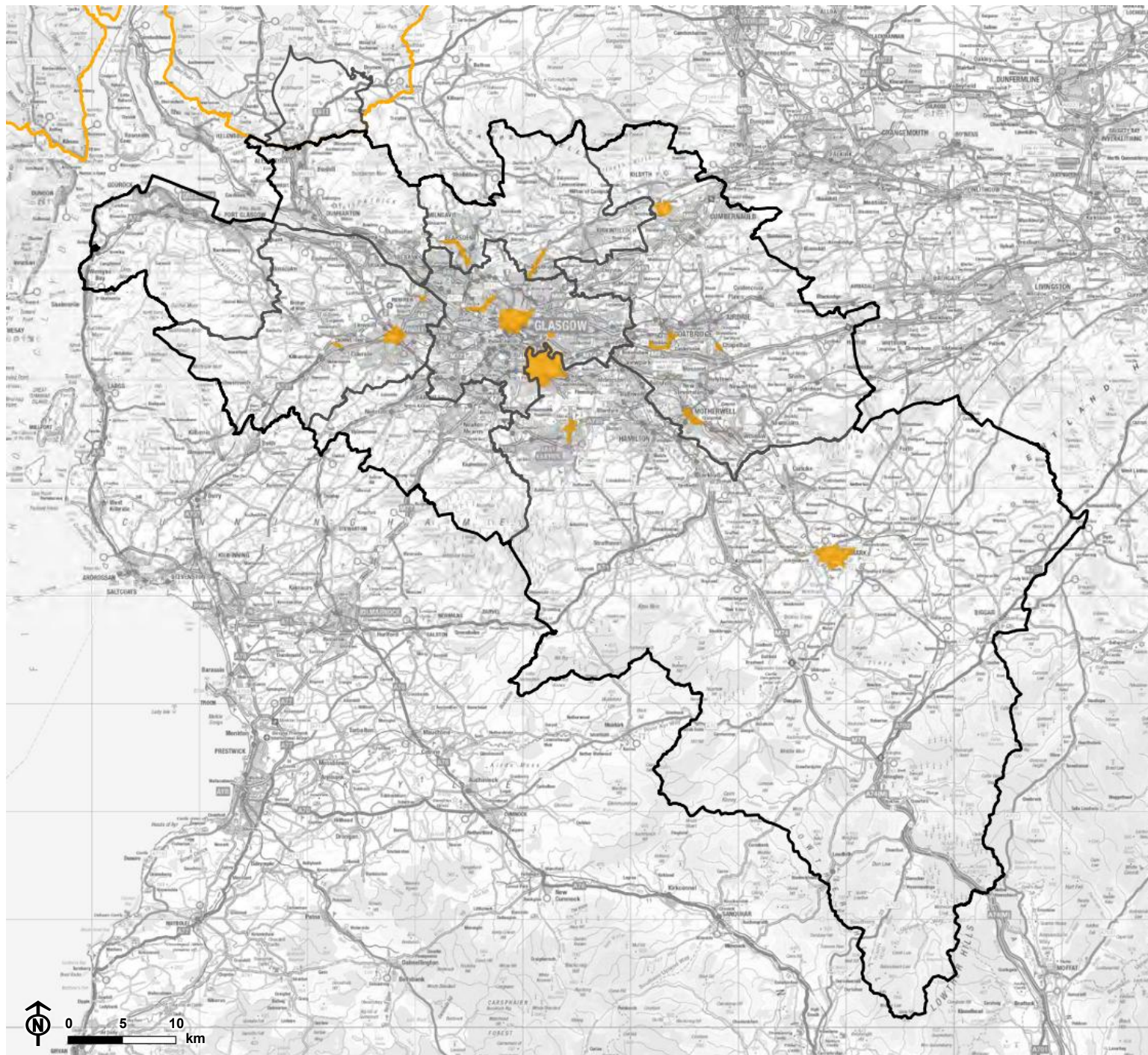


Figure 8.4: Air Quality Management Areas





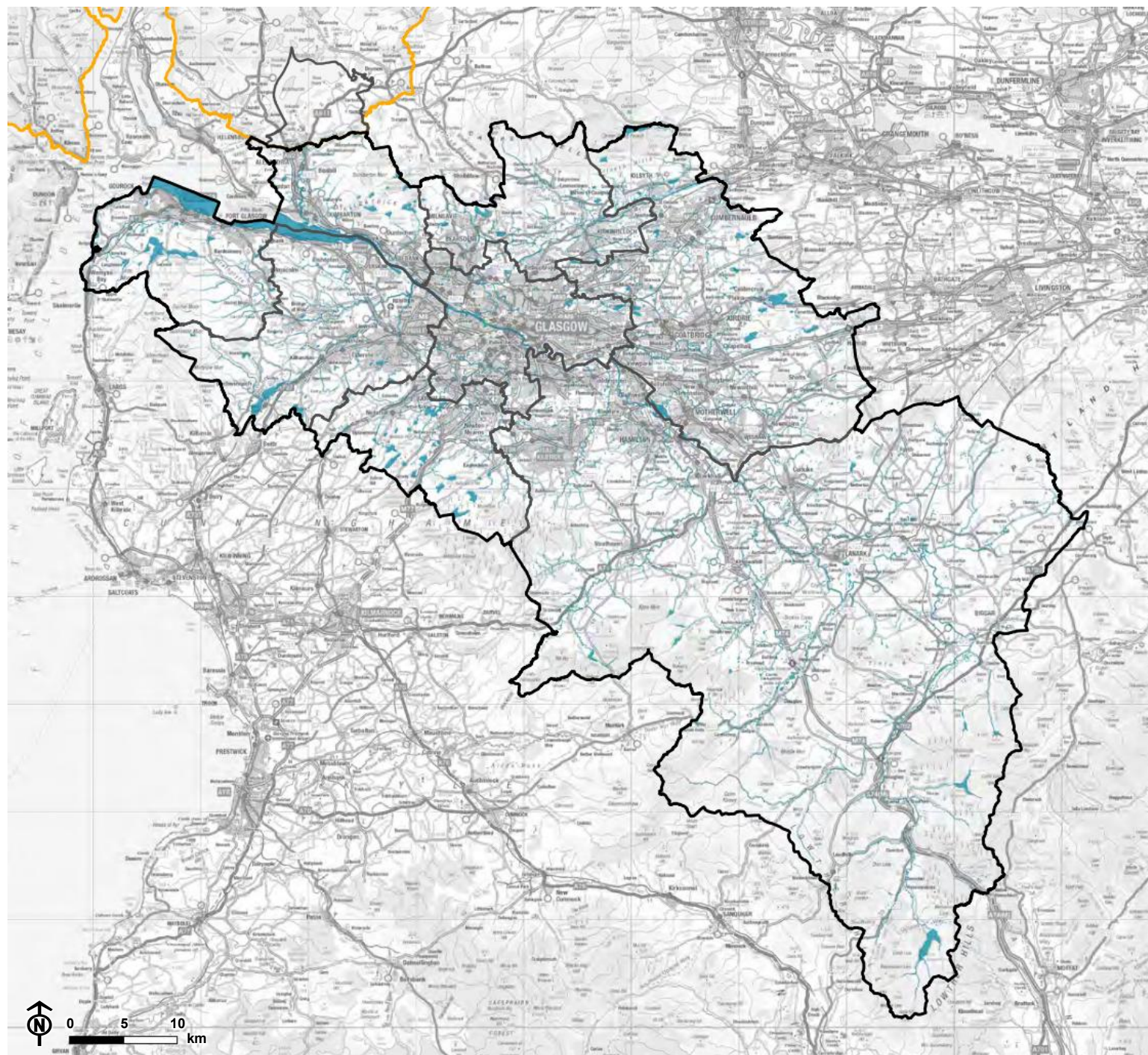




-  Clydeplan boundary
-  Local Authority boundary
-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
-  Air Quality Management Area



Figure 8.5: Hydrology



-  Clydeplan boundary
-  Local Authority boundary
-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
-  Waterbodies

## Contribute to the conservation, enhancement and understanding of Clydeplan's valued natural heritage and historic environment

**8.34** Trees and woodlands form part of our cultural heritage, contributing to the character of cities, towns and villages, helping to shape the rural landscape and forming part of many important historic sites. The Strategy will increase awareness of trees' cultural and landscape importance, aiming to increase their contribution to landscape and townscape quality. This will be achieved by:

- Improving townscape and landscapes;
- Maintaining important designed landscapes and treescapes of cultural and heritage value; and,
- Protecting the historic environment.

### Improving townscape and landscapes

**8.35** Woodland is a key feature of many of the varied landscapes within Clydeplan, often emphasising the contrast between valleys, lowland and upland parts of the area. Ensuring that these woodlands are managed and enhanced is a priority to maintain landscape character.

**8.36** Many of our finest urban environments are characterised by trees and woodland. Public parks such as Kelvingrove, Glasgow Green, Pollok Country Park, Victoria Park, Queens Park and Rouken Glen Park are all distinguished by their avenues of mature trees and fine specimen trees. Trees also contribute to the formal townscape of city squares, crescents and circuses, and new towns are characterised by trees. Less formal areas of woodland are found along some of the river corridors, including sections of the Clyde itself, in country parks and along the urban fringe. Trees and woodland help to make these attractive places to live and to work.

**8.37** Other parts of the urban area are characterised by much lower levels of tree cover. These include former industrial areas such as Clyde Waterfront and Clyde Gateway, and many residential areas – particularly high-density tenement areas and more recent areas of post-war municipal housing.

**8.38** Trees and woodlands are equally important components of the rural landscapes within the Clydeplan area. Orchards were characteristic of areas such as the Clyde Valley where the microclimate combined with proximity to Glasgow to create a niche market. Today, many of the factors that shaped our rural landscapes have changed and many woodlands have fallen into neglect. In some areas, the lines of trees that once marked field boundaries are gradually being lost, creating a more open and less varied landscape in their place.

**8.39** In many areas, the emphasis should be on maintaining existing trees and woodland, replanting trees in good time and ensuring woodlands are best able to cope with the effects of climate change. At the same time, there is potential to establish new farm woodlands and shelterbelts where these reflect the character of the rural landscape. Such woodlands could provide shelter for stock and crops, a source of low carbon fuel and networks for animals and plants, as well as contributing to sustainable flood management and carbon sequestration.

**8.40** In some areas there may be potential to establish more extensive areas of new woodland, particularly where landscapes have become degraded or where agriculture is less viable. These woodlands will help create new landscapes with opportunities for recreation, local businesses and community involvement.

**8.41** In line with UKFS, restructuring of existing softwood forests is already helping to create more naturalistic and integrated woodlands which enhance landscape character and quality.

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ENV 4.1 | Promote positive management of trees and woodland where they make an important contribution to the character and quality of the landscape.               |
| ENV 4.2 | Promote the role of trees and woodland in enhancing the character and quality of degraded or damaged landscapes.   |
| ENV 4.3 | Encourage the positive management of trees, woodlands and shelter belts in recognition of their contribution to landscape structure and distinctiveness. |
| ENV 4.4 | Support the ongoing restructuring of conifer woodlands to enhance landscape character and quality.   |

### Protecting the historic environment

**8.42** Trees and woodlands are an integral part of the historic environment - contributing to the setting of a range of assets, adding to the character of historic towns and villages, and preserving the patterns of past activity. A landscape including many trees or groups of trees, can be described as a treescape, which may be of particular cultural and heritage value.

**8.43** While trees and woodlands are an important component of many of Clydeplan's historic landscapes, often reflecting past patterns of land management and industrial activity, there is potential for new woodlands, whether planted or naturally regenerated, to affect sensitive parts of the historic environment. Archaeological sites, both above and below the ground, are often vulnerable to damage from tree roots and



mechanised processes used in large-scale planting. Archaeological landscapes and inter-visibility of monuments can be affected by inappropriately located planting. Sites with a strong relationship to the surrounding landscape – such as the Antonine Wall – are also sensitive to planting that could interfere with key visual relationships. However, careful siting and well-planned woodlands can make a significant positive contribution to the setting of sites, reinforcing landscape character and restoring degraded landscape structure.

**8.44** Wilsontown Ironworks, near Forth in South Lanarkshire, provides an excellent example of how management of the historic environment in forest environments has changed in recent years. The 18th-20th century ironworks and colliery complex, partially planted with conifers during the 1970's, has been extensively researched, conserved and promoted by Scottish Forestry since 2001.

**8.45** The restructuring of existing areas of softwood forest following harvesting can provide an opportunity to improve the physical setting and interpretation of historic features such as field boundaries and buildings.

**8.46** Similarly, positive management of the area's extensive suite of designed landscapes is necessary to secure the contribution these assets make to local character, distinctiveness and a sense of time-depth in the landscape. Many of the trees in these historic landscapes are mature or over-mature and in some cases they are suffering due to a lack of appropriate management or from the effects of development. The changing climate could compound these issues as a result of storm damage, stress and disease. Positive management is needed to ensure that the historic, landscape and biodiversity significance of these landscapes is maintained. This may include planned replanting of individual trees, avenues or other features to ensure the character of these historic landscapes is maintained. The Chatelherault woodland management plan has allowed removal of commercial conifer planting to restore original vistas and viewpoints within a designed landscape.

**8.47** Land managers should refer to the Forestry Commission [Forests and the Historic Environment](#) guidance note for advice on planning operations and managing heritage assets on forest land and meeting the requirement of UKFS.

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| ENV4.5 | Conserve and enhance the setting of historic environment assets through sensitive woodland planning and appropriate planting.   |
| ENV4.8 | Encourage positive management of trees and woodlands within historic gardens and designed landscapes, including succession planning and selective replanting to conserve the character and significance of assets, and improve their resilience to the effects of climate change. |

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| ENV4.5 | Conserve and enhance the setting of historic environment assets through sensitive woodland planning and appropriate planting. |
| ENV4.6 | Promote woodland restructuring as an opportunity to improve the setting, access to and interpretation of, heritage assets.    |
| ENV4.7 | Promote understanding and awareness of trees and woodlands as part of the historic environment.                               |



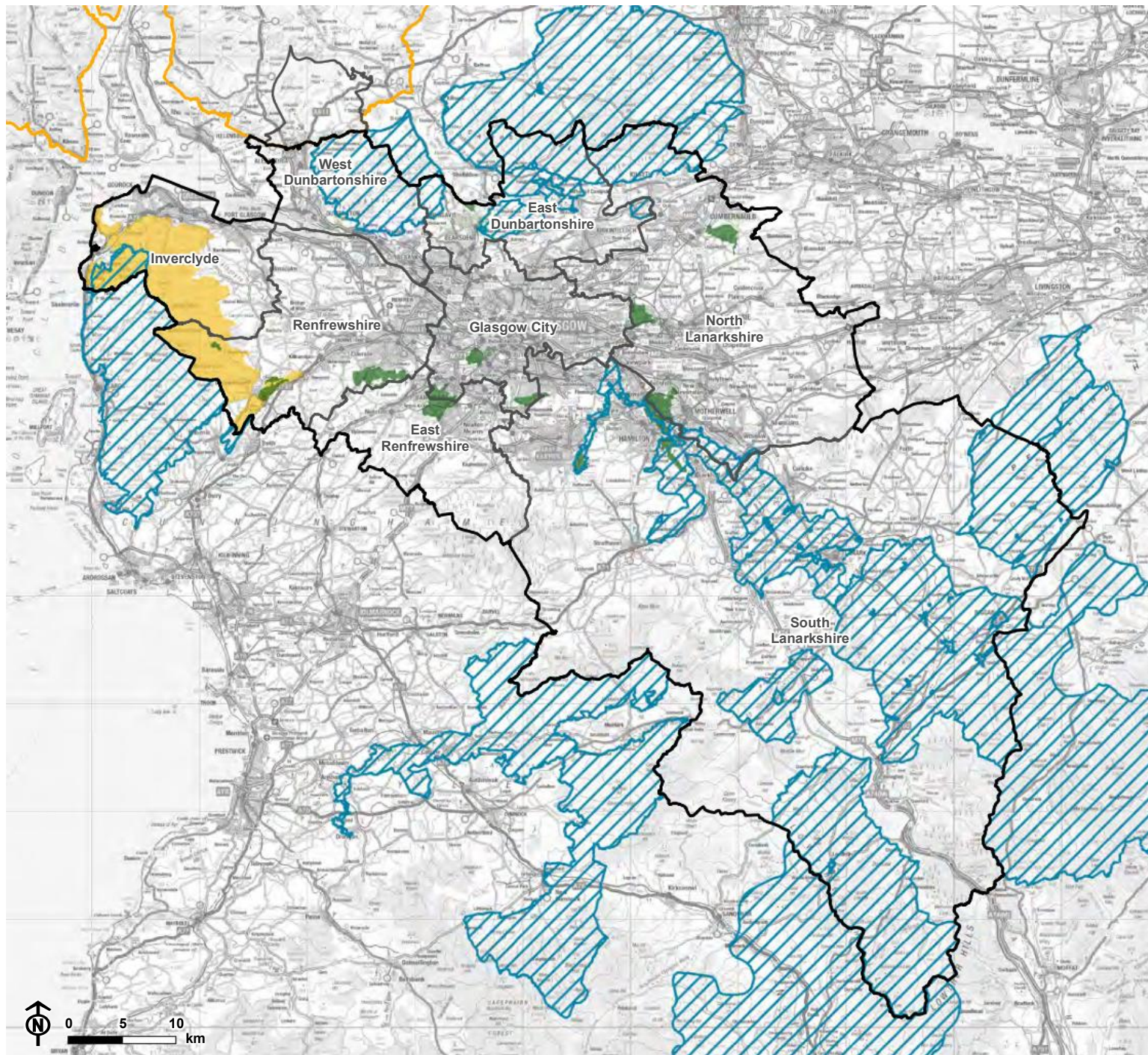
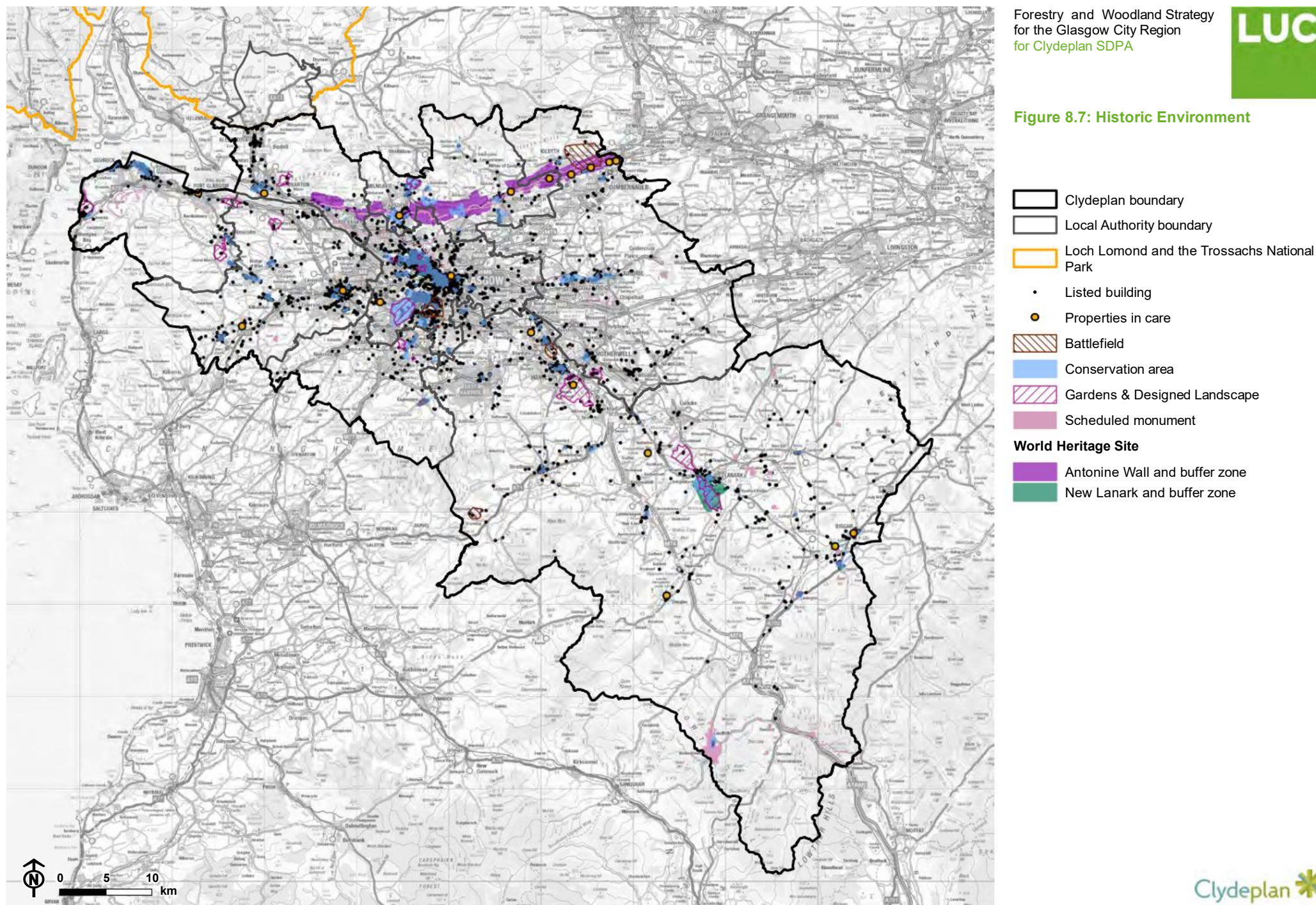


Figure 8.6: Landscape Designations

- Clydeplan boundary
- Local Authority boundary
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
- Country Park
- Special Landscape Area (SLA)



Figure 8.7: Historic Environment



## Chapter 9

### Spatial Guidance

**This section of the Strategy sets out the local priorities for woodland expansion and management by broad landscape ‘zone.’ It presents a breakdown of the potential for expansion in each zone and describes the principal opportunities and constraints that should be taken into account in new planting proposals.**

#### Introduction

**9.1** Adapting the revised landscape types developed for the regional Landscape Character Assessment and recent Wind Energy Capacity Study, the spatial framework adopts a landscape-led approach to interpreting the potential for expansion in each ‘zone’. It aims to add contextual detail in relation to the opportunities and likely sensitivities affecting woodland expansion and management, and highlights areas where additional assessment or regulatory processes are likely to be required.

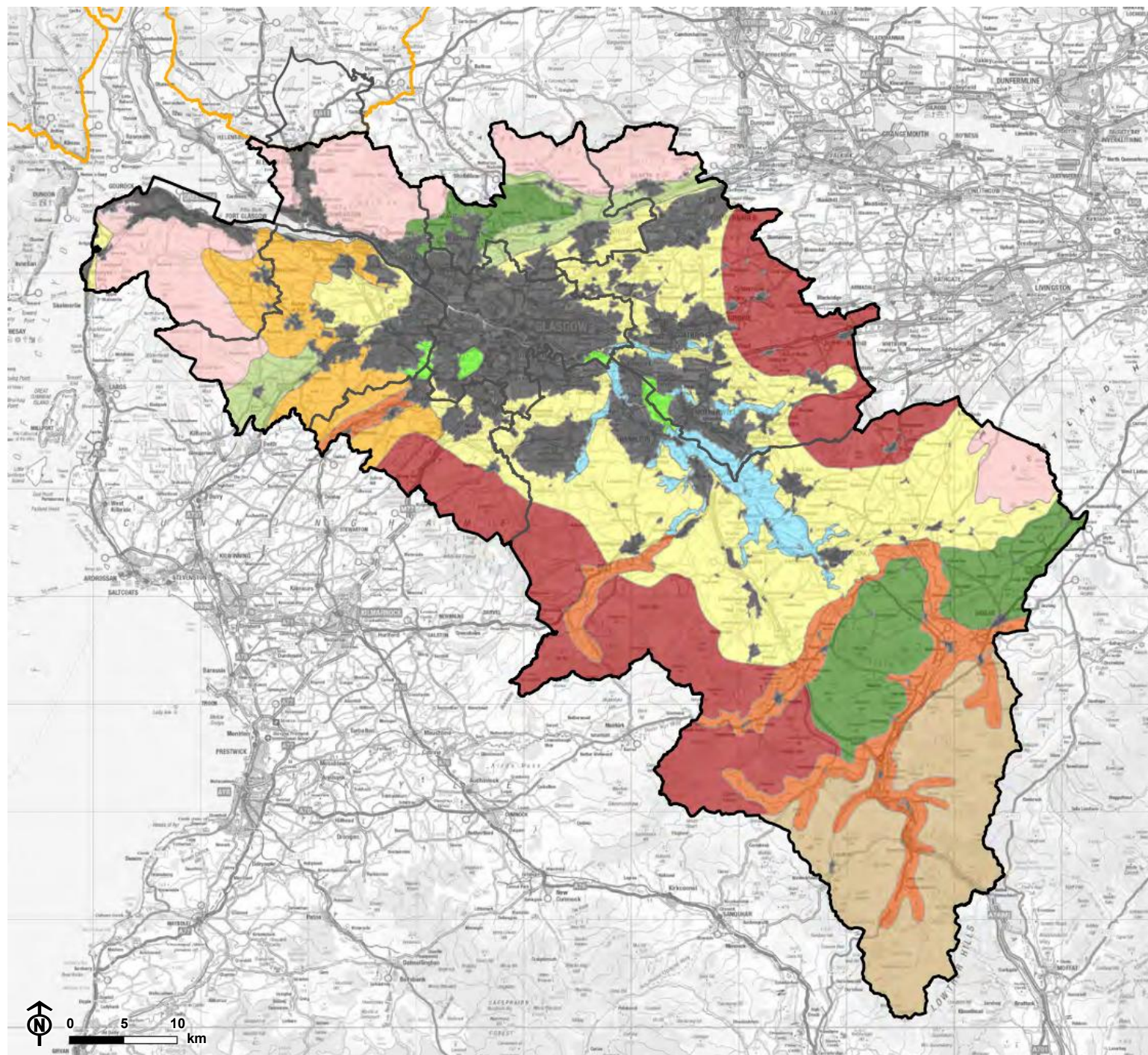


## Spatial framework

9.2 The spatial framework, comprising eleven separate landscape 'zones', are:

| Zone name                    | Description   | Woodland cover – key facts (2018)  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Farmlands</b>             | Extensive plateau and rolling farmland encircling the main metropolitan area  | 9,792ha of woodland<br>14.3% of zone wooded<br>16.4% of the region's woodland  |
| <b>Foothills</b>             | Rising ground and foothills of the Kilpatrick Hills, Campsie Fells and the Southern Uplands                               | 4,497ha of woodland<br>18.4% of zone wooded<br>7.5% of the region's woodland   |
| <b>Incised River Valleys</b> | Steeply-incised valleys and gorges of the middle Clyde and Avon Valleys and their tributaries                             | 2,982ha of woodland<br>36% of zone wooded<br>5% of the region's woodland       |
| <b>Lowland Valley</b>        | Broad valley lowlands of the Kelvin Valley and the Lochwinnoch Gap  | 1,053ha of woodland<br>12.4% of zone wooded<br>1.8% of the region's woodland   |
| <b>Moorland Hills</b>        | Clyde Muirshiel Hills, Kilpatrick Hills, Campsie Fells and Kilsyth Hills and the south western part of the Pentland Hills | 6,604ha of woodland<br>19% of zone wooded<br>11.0% of the region's woodland    |
| <b>Plateau Moorland</b>      | Elevated and exposed moorlands of the Muirkirk and Lowther Hills, and the western extremity of the Slamannan Plateau      | 17,915ha of woodland<br>31.8% of zone wooded<br>30% of the region's woodland   |
| <b>Southern Uplands</b>      | High, open and exposed hills of the Southern Uplands  | 5,724.6ha of woodland<br>17.8% of zone wooded<br>9.6% of the region's woodland |
| <b>Upland Farmland</b>       | Rolling, convoluted agricultural landscapes of Renfrewshire and Inverclyde  | 2,975ha of woodland<br>17.9% of zone wooded<br>5% of the region's woodland     |
| <b>Upland Valley</b>         | Upper valleys of the region's main rivers   | 2,733ha of woodland<br>11.6% of zone wooded<br>4.6% of the region's woodland   |
| <b>Urban</b>                 | The region's larger settlements   | 4,934ha of woodland<br>8.8% of zone wooded<br>8.3% of the region's woodland    |
| <b>Urban Greenspaces</b>     | Large parks and greenspaces on the fringes of Glasgow   | 584ha of woodland<br>28.2% of zone wooded<br>1% of the region's woodland       |

Figure 9.1: Spatial Framework



- Clydeplan boundary
- Local Authority boundary
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

**Spatial Framework Landscape Zones**

- Farmland
- Foothills
- Incised River Valleys
- Lowland Valley
- Moorland Hills
- Plateau Moorland
- Southern Uplands
- Upland Farmland
- Upland Valley
- Urban
- Urban Greenspaces

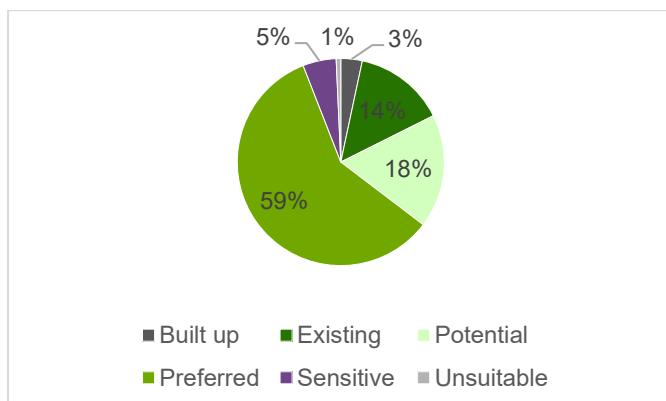
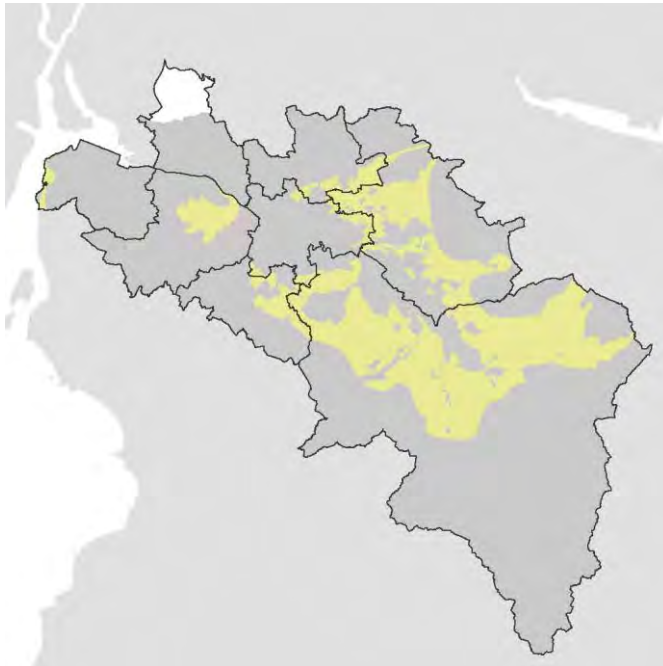


## Farmland

### Overview

**9.3** This zone ranges from lower lying areas on the floodplains of the Black and White Cart Waters, to more open and elevated pastures along the middle Clyde valley in South Lanarkshire.

**9.4** Agriculture makes an important contribution to the economy of the region, to the vitality of rural communities, and to the character of the wider landscape. The emphasis of current policy is to achieve greater integration of agriculture and forestry, with woodland creation and management contributing practically and financially to farm businesses, whilst delivering other social and environmental benefits.



Zone location &  
Breakdown of zone land categories

### Existing woodland resource

**9.5** Despite its large size, the zone is comparatively sparsely wooded. The resource is composed of shelterbelts, farm woodlands, smaller softwood forests and areas of policy woodland, such as Bar Hill and Gartshore Estate.

**9.6** The zone also contains the bulk of the region's peri-urban landscapes, and therefore holds a significant area of under-managed woodland that could make a greater contribution to the quality, character and distinctiveness of settlements.

### Key Issues

**9.7** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Significant fragmentation of native woodland resources
  - Presenting an often significant barrier to species' adaptation to the effects of climate change
- Decline and under-management of farm woodlands, shelterbelts and field trees, eroding landscape quality and character
- Difficult economic circumstances, making it hard for farm forestry to compete with other land uses
- Need for support for agriculture in adapting to the effects of climate change
- Forms the immediate setting for much of the region's settlement – but land degradation and abandonment, anti-social behaviour and under-management of woodland resources often undermines the potential contribution to character and distinctiveness
- Generally poor ecological condition of waterbodies, with agricultural diffuse pollution a key issue
- Significant peri-urban land allocations, particularly for housing

### Local sensitivities

**9.8** The presence of the New Lanark World Heritage Site and its buffer zone is a key sensitivity in the south of the zone, meaning that proposed planting in the area needs to be carefully planned and managed to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. In practice, given the local topography, it is likely that proposals would be limited to conserving and enhancing existing native woodland networks.

**9.9** Similarly, the zone contains the southern edge of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site and buffer zone. While less sensitive to visual impacts from the south, the WHS requires careful

consideration in the location and design of new woodlands to avoid adverse effects on the setting of the site, which makes a major contribution to its significance. New planting within the Scheduled Area is unlikely to be supported, and management of existing resources will frequently require Scheduled Monument Consent from Scottish Ministers.

**9.10** A substantial proportion of the zone is also covered by local landscape designations (South Lanarkshire ‘Special Landscape Areas’) intended to conserve the special qualities of the Clyde and Avon Valleys and the rural environs of Lanark. New woodland proposals would therefore need to be designed in a manner that understands and reflects the key characteristics of these areas.

**9.11** The zone contains a number of important remnant peatlands, including a number of SSSI and Special Areas of Conservation (e.g. Coalburn, Braehead and Waulkenwae Mosses). Internationally important and UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority lowland raised bogs, with deep peat and carbon rich soils, include Lenzie Moss Local Nature Reserve and Low Moss. These areas are highly susceptible to hydrological change, therefore woodland expansion in the vicinity must be carefully managed to prevent adverse effects. There are also likely to be undesignated peat resources at the local level which are required to be recognised and protected when planting proposals come forward.

**9.12** Existing agricultural land uses, particularly in areas of higher land capability and value, are also a key consideration.

- New softwood and mixed forests, located and designed to reflect the character and quality of the landscape, and local sensitivities such as peatland habitats
- Identifying and prioritising suitable sites for application of Continuous Cover Forestry in more sheltered areas
- Supporting the delivery of housing development on the fringes of the metropolitan area released through development plans— contributing to landscape character, quality and sense of place.

### Priorities for woodland management

- Bringing under-managed urban fringe woodlands into positive management through SF ‘Woods In and Around Towns’ and successor programmes to improve the setting of existing and proposed development;
- Promoting management and enhancement of existing farm woodlands;
- Succession planning for key features in gardens and designed landscapes, and for important field trees and orchards.

### Priorities for woodland expansion

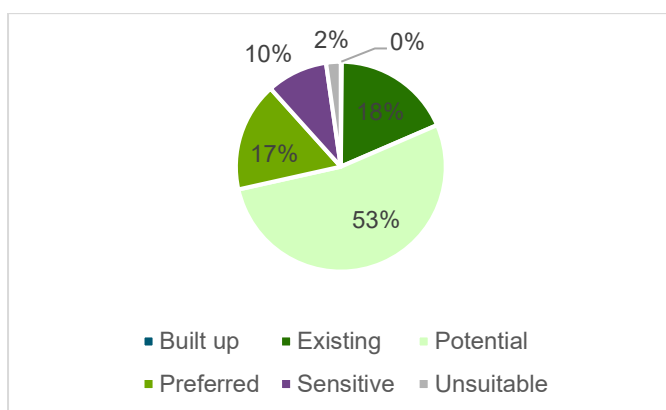
- Contributing to the development of woodland habitat networks, particularly where these can link to significant existing assets – such as the Clyde Valley woodlands;
- Delivering new farm woodlands to aid adaptation to climate change, contribute to diversification and help to expand potential timber and biomass production opportunities;



## Foothills

### Overview

**9.13** This zone comprises the foothills of the Kilpatrick Hills and Campsie Fells in the north of the region, from the Kelvin Valley to Strathblane. In the south, the Tinto Hills and the rising ground to the north of the upper Clyde Valley, forming the foothills of the Southern Uplands. This portion of the zone is bisected by the Clyde.



### Existing woodland resource

**9.14** With woodland cover matching the regional average, this zone of transitional and upland landscapes has a mix of woodland cover. Although principally composed of relatively large-scale conifer forests, the lower-lying areas have a strong landscape structure created by regular patterns of shelterbelts and small farm woodlands. A substantial proportion of the resource has been planted relatively recently; therefore the landscape is likely to evolve over the FWS period as these woodlands mature.

Zone location &  
Breakdown of zone land categories

### Key Issues

**9.15** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Changing landscape character as a consequence of recent woodland planting, potentially reducing the capacity for further larger-scale expansion
- Potential improvement in land capability and value as a consequence of climate change
- Very sparse and fragmented native woodland resource

### Local sensitivities

**9.16** The landscapes of this zone are highly valued locally, and this is confirmed by the designation of a substantial proportion of the zone as 'Special Landscape Areas' (SLA) by South Lanarkshire Council<sup>54</sup>:

- Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto SLA;
- Pentland Hills and Black Mount SLA;
- Douglas Valley SLA (very small portion)
- Leadhills and the Lowther Hills SLA (very small portion)
- The Tinto Hill/Dungavel Hill area contains several examples of monoculture sitka spruce plantations which have little or no relationship to the underlying landscape character. These are often on prominent sites in sensitive visual locations and there may be a case for not replanting when they are harvested and providing compensatory planting elsewhere.

<sup>54</sup> Ironside Farrar for South Lanarkshire Council (2010) *South Lanarkshire: Validating Local Landscape Designations*; and reaffirmed in the adopted South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (2015)

**9.17** In addition, East Dunbartonshire Council has designated:

- Bardowie, Baldernock and Torrance Local Landscape Area (LLA)

**9.18** The Tinto Hills are also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for their geological significance and their upland plant assemblage, meaning that this area – comprising a little over 6% of the zone – is particularly sensitive to woodland expansion and retention or replacement of inappropriately designed and sited conifer plantations.

**9.19** Due to the elevation of the western portion of the zone in particular, there is comparatively little intensive agriculture. This means that a range of archaeological remains are present within the zone, including later prehistoric hillforts and enclosures and extensive pre-Improvement agricultural landscapes. New woodland would therefore need to take into account the potential for physical harm to heritage assets and impacts on their setting.

#### Priorities for woodland management

- Ongoing restructuring and enhancement of existing softwood forests
- Bringing neglected shelterbelts, farm woodlands and field trees back into positive management, particularly where these features make an important contribution to landscape character and quality

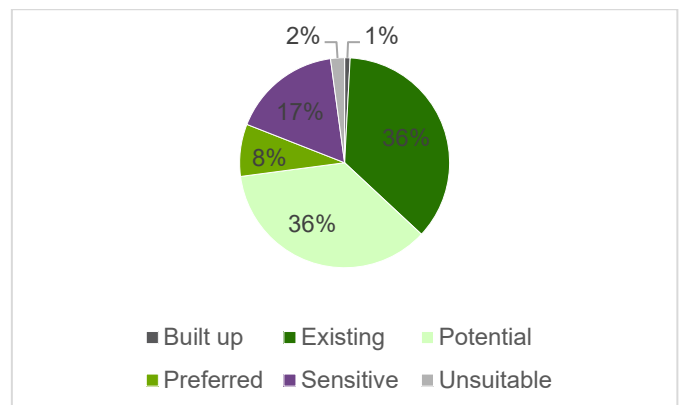
#### Priorities for woodland expansion

- Highlighting the potential of new woodland in assisting agricultural adaptation to climate change – particularly providing shelter and shade for livestock in pastoral areas
- Developing high quality new native woodland to link with riparian networks in the Clyde Valley and its tributaries
- Expansion of existing softwood forests, where appropriate in size and scale to the character and quality of local landscapes
- New farm woodlands to contribute to diversification and resilience.

## Incised River Valleys

### Overview

**9.20** Between Lanark and Hamilton, the Clyde Valley, together with tributary valleys such as the Avon, Nethan, South Calder and Garrion, contains some of Scotland's finest areas of riverine and gorge woodlands. Many of these woodlands are ancient in origin and have a history of management that extends back to the middle ages and their rich ecology is reflected in designation under European legislation as a Special Area of Conservation. The steep, often unstable nature of many valley slopes meant that these woodlands survived despite the industrialisation of neighbouring areas of countryside during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The woods are not untouched, however, reflecting the history of grazing, coppicing and other types of management.



Zone location &

Breakdown of zone land categories

**9.21** These rich, semi-natural and ancient woods are accompanied by a series of historic gardens and designed landscapes, many of which exploited the dramatic, well-wooded character of the valley. There is also a legacy of fruit orchards, remnants from the time when farmers in the Clyde Valley exploited the micro-climate to supply Glasgow with apples and soft fruit. Although some functioning orchards remain, many subsequently gave way to horticultural glasshouses and later to garden centres.

**9.22** A significant portion of the incised river valleys are designated as Special (local) Landscape Areas (SLAs) namely the Lower Clyde and Calderglen SLA, and the Middle Clyde Valley SLA.

**9.23** The Clyde Valley has a series of small settlements, many based around bridging points or mills, the latter including the World Heritage Site of New Lanark. The area is of importance for tourism and recreation.

### Existing woodland resource

**9.24** As noted above, the zone holds outstanding examples of ancient, semi-natural deciduous woodland with SAC, NNR and SSSI designations. This comprises the bulk of the woodland in the zone, along with the ancient wood pasture habitats at Chatelherault Country Park, in the Avon Valley.

**9.25** This is one of the most densely-wooded zones, and therefore management of existing resources – rather than expansion – is the priority.

### Key Issues

**9.26** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- The role of trees and woodland in contributing to the character and setting of the New Lanark World Heritage Site
- Conserving and enhancing the internationally important ancient and semi-natural woodland, and securing their resilience to the effects of climate change
- Ensuring that tourism and recreation uses can be reconciled with effective conservation and management of native woodland resources
- Ensuring that the cultural and historical value of the area's ancient woodlands continues to be recognised and promoted.

### Local sensitivities

**9.27** For a comparatively small area, this zone contains a large number of designations - reflecting the natural and cultural heritage values present. This means that any new planting proposals would need to be planned, designed and implemented to the highest standards to ensure that the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the SAC/SSSI, the landscape importance of the SLAs, and the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage site are maintained.

### Priorities for woodland management

- Active management of more accessible woodlands to maintain their diversity and heritage values through appropriate management techniques
- Succession planning for key landscape features in the zone's designed landscapes (this is already being

considered as part of the management plan for Chatelherault)

- Felling of larger areas of non-native conifer woodland at the end of their rotation and replacement with more appropriate native species that would make a greater contribution to landscape, biodiversity and heritage values, with particular priority to restoring PAWS sites.

### Priorities for woodland expansion

- Reinforcing the native woodland networks to boost resilience to the effects of climate change
- Further woodland management projects and native woodland creation projects within the Clyde Valley to expand and connect the native woodland network associated with the NNR
- Re-establishment of diverse shelterbelts that provide important landscape structure
- Limited opportunities for well-designed mixed conifer planting where this fits with the existing woodlands in the landscape.

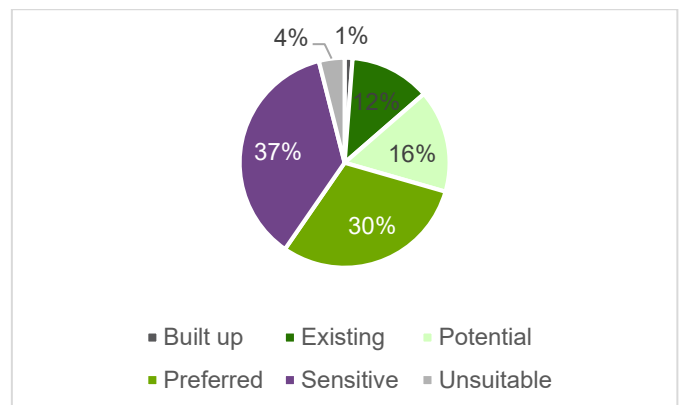


## Lowland Valley

### Overview

**9.28** In the northern portion of the zone, the zone comprises the broad valleys of the River Kelvin and the Blane Water. In the southern portion, the zone is centred on the Lochwinnoch Gap – a glacial trough between two sections of the Clyde Plateau lava, now filled by Castle Semple and Barr Lochs and drained by the Black Cart Water.

**9.29** The historic environment is a critical aspect of the character and woodland resource of both areas. The extensive designed landscape and historical hydraulic engineering of the former Castle Semple Estate is a key aspect of character in the southern portion. In the north, the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site shadow the Kelvin Valley from the boundary with Falkirk into north Glasgow. The site of the Battle of Kilsyth (1645) is included on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields.



Zone location &

Breakdown of zone land categories

### Existing woodland resource

**9.30** Around 10% of the zone is currently in woodland. The majority is concentrated in and around the historic policies of Castle Semple, by Lochwinnoch, and the riparian and farm woodlands of the Kelvin Valley.

### Key Issues

**9.31** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Major flood risk
- Comparatively high land values for mixed and pastoral agriculture

- Fragmentation of key native woodland assets, particularly riparian networks in the Black Cart and Kelvin Valleys.

#### Local sensitivities

**9.32** The World Heritage Site is a major sensitivity. Although substantial sections of the Wall are already within woodland, the setting of the asset as a whole is highly sensitive to change – as this has the potential to affect functional and visual relationships critical to its significance. Any proposals within the Buffer Zone would therefore require the highest standards of planning and design, as well as rigorous assessment. However, in some sections, the presence of trees on the line of the Wall are a key part of the asset's character – and the ability to perceive it in the wider landscape – therefore careful stewardship of these woodlands is imperative.

**9.33** Historic policy woodlands, such as those at Castle Semple, are a particular management challenge. Maintaining the character and significance of the landscape, and its contribution to the setting of a large number of designated heritage assets, is a key consideration. The Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park has undertaken a range of work to understand and inform the restoration of the landscape, through Heritage Lottery funded projects.

**9.34** The Kilsyth battlefield covers a substantial area and is likely to influence the nature, scale and design of woodlands that would be considered appropriate within the designated area.

**9.35** Local landscape designations including Glazert Valley Local Landscape Area and Bardowie, Baldernock and Torrance Local Landscape Area (East Dunbartonshire) are a key sensitivity.

#### Priorities for woodland management

- Conserving and enhancing the character and significance of historic policy woodlands
- Maintaining and planning for the succession of woodland and specimen trees along the line of the Antonine Wall
  - Succession planning is a particular challenge, as new planting on the asset itself is inherently problematic – but the eventual loss of existing trees will erode the visibility of the asset on the ridgeline above the Kelvin Valley (particularly adjacent to Castlecary / Cumbernauld Airport)
- Conserving and enhancing the structure and character of the landscape within the Kilsyth Inventory Battlefield area.

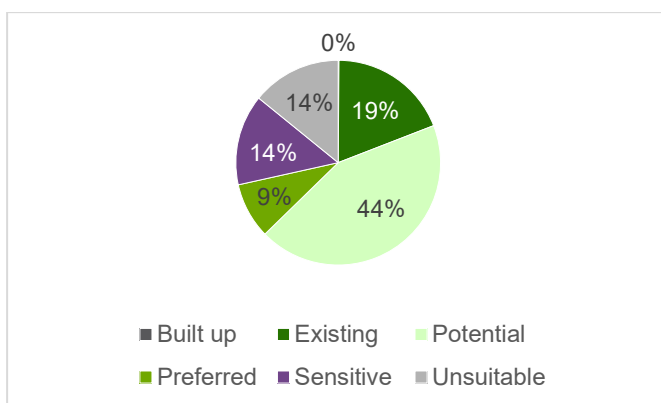
#### Priorities for woodland expansion

- Expanding riparian networks can help protect river morphology and moderate stream temperatures, while potentially reducing downstream flooding; improve habitat connectivity; improve water quality and soil stability; assist in tackling agricultural diffuse pollution (by providing a buffer between pollution sources and watercourses); and, contribute to sustainable water management
- Identifying appropriate locations where new floodplain woodland could contribute to flood attenuation and management
- Restoring lost shelterbelts and field trees to assist in agricultural adaption to the effects of climate change, and to reinforce landscape character
- Limited opportunities for well-designed mixed conifer planting where this fits with the existing woodlands in the landscape
- Promoting the development of new farm woodland to contribute to climate change adaptation and farm diversification.

## Moorland Hills

### Overview

**9.36** This zone comprises the Clyde Muirshiel Hills, Kilpatrick Hills, Campsie Fells and Kilsyth Hills and the south western part of the Pentland Hills. Together, these hills make up just over 9% of the Clydeplan area. The moorland hills support a range of upland habitats including peat bog, grasslands and wetlands. The hills also include some areas of softwood forest.



#### Zone location &

#### Breakdown of zone land categories

**9.37** The hills are already an important recreation resource for the Clydeplan area, providing areas with a more remote character and extensive views close to the metropolitan area. The Clyde Muirshiel Hills form part of a Regional Park that extends into North Ayrshire, with visitor centres and a network of trails. The Campsie Fells include the Carron Valley forest which has regionally important mountain biking trails and a more extensive network of forest tracks and paths. The wider Campsies are an important recreation resource, part of which is designated a Local Landscape Area. The Kilsyth Hills are designated as a Special Landscape Area and are highly regarded in terms of scenic value, informal recreation and landscape appreciation. The Kilpatrick Hills are also important, with work underway to expand native woodland and improve recreation opportunities through the Land Management Plan<sup>55</sup> for the National Forest Estate in the area. That part of the Pentland Hills within this zone lies outside the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

### Existing woodland resource

**9.38** The zone holds a significant area of softwood forest, although generally smaller in scale than those on the Plateau Moorlands and in the Southern Uplands. Restructuring of some of this resource is already underway, and should contribute to better quality second rotation timber – as well as improving landscape and biodiversity values.

**9.39** Networks of good quality native riparian woodland are also present in the steep, deeply-incised valleys of the Kilpatrick Hills and Clyde Muirshiel/Renfrewshire Heights uplands.

### Key Issues

**9.40** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Positively managing increased demand for woodland-based recreation
- Flood risk and water management
- Presence of deep peat
- Potential loss of productive area as a consequence of restructuring and delivering higher quality, multi-benefit woodland

### Local sensitivities

**9.41** Significant areas of the Renfrewshire Heights are designated for their natural heritage value (SPA for breeding

<sup>55</sup> Formerly 'Forest Design Plan': available at: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/plans-and-strategies/land-management-plans/616-kilpatrick-hills>

hen harrier; SSSI for hen harrier and geodiversity); as are smaller areas of the Kilpatrick Hills (e.g. Dumbarton Muir SSSI) and the Campsie Fells.

**9.42** The Pentland Hills area within South Lanarkshire is designated as a Special Landscape Area. The Campsie Fells Local Landscape Area (East Dunbartonshire) and the adjacent Kilsyth Hills are a proposed Special Landscape Area (North Lanarkshire) and The Kilpatrick Hills are also a Local Landscape Area (East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire). In addition, the south western part of the Renfrewshire Heights is identified as an area of wild land<sup>56</sup>.

**9.43** Where proposals for new woodland could generate likely significant effects on the qualifying interests or conservation objectives of the SPA, Habitats Regulations Appraisal will be required to identify and mitigate adverse effects ensuring there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA.

#### Priorities for woodland management

- Continuing to deliver higher quality, multi-benefit woodland through restructuring existing softwood forests
- Bringing riparian woodlands into positive management to improve their biodiversity and water management potential, particularly in the steep-sided glens of Inverclyde
- Managing existing native woodland networks to optimise their biodiversity value
- Contributing to continued development of the regionally important tourism and recreation offer of the zone's woodlands.

#### Priorities for woodland expansion

- Expansion of softwood forests in appropriate areas to support a sustainable timber industry;
- Reinforcing riparian networks to improve natural flood attenuation and contributing to sustainable catchment management, particularly in catchments subject to flash flood events where woodland could add significant value in helping to slow catchment response times;
- Expanding native woodland in lower-lying areas to contribute to landscape and biodiversity restoration objectives.

<sup>56</sup> SNH, 2014. *Mapping Scotland's wildness and wild land* [online]. Available at: [http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-after-](http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-after-landscapes/landscape-policy-and-guidance/wild-land/mapping/)

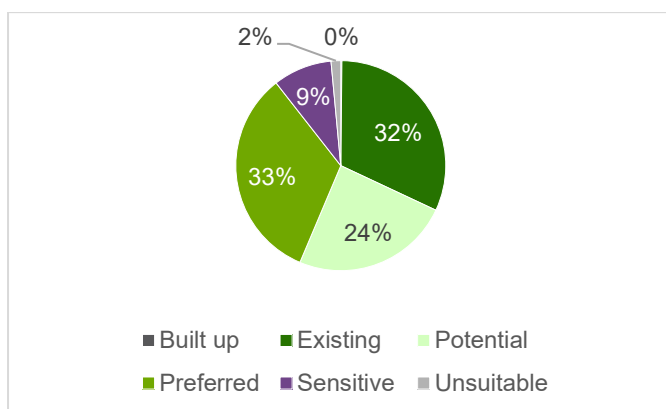
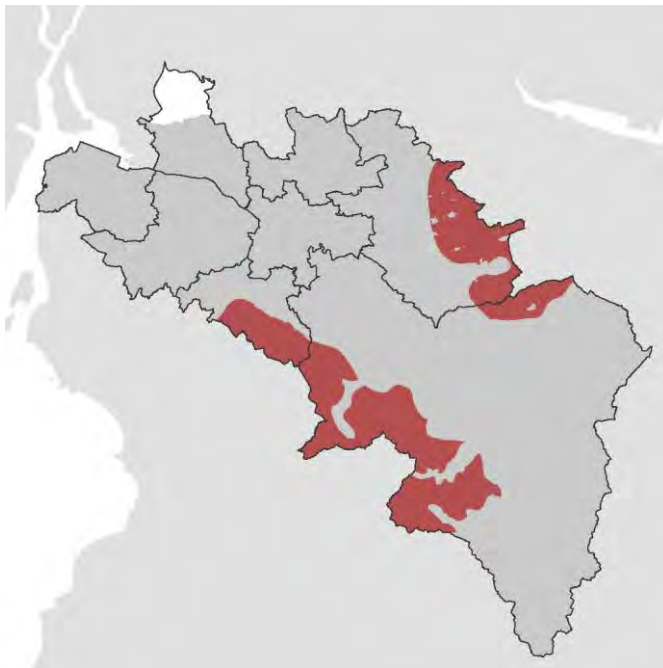
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## Plateau Moorland

### Overview

**9.44** The Plateau Moorlands enclose much of the Clyde Valley to the south and east of the Glasgow conurbation. Key characteristics of this area include a distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth, plateau landform and moorland vegetation; and, a sense of remoteness which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands.



Zone location &  
Breakdown of zone land categories

**9.45** These are typically open areas of gently sloping moorland with a mixture of peatland, grassland and coniferous forests. The hills south of Strathaven are more elevated and have a more distinctive landform where individual hilltops can

readily be identified. The moorlands include important habitats and a number of areas which are protected under European legislation. The hills are cut by the open valleys of the Clyde and its tributaries, providing routes for transport corridors and more sheltered locations for villages and smaller towns. Mineral working has affected large parts of this area and today it accommodates a significant number of wind energy developments.

### Existing woodland resource

**9.46** This is the region's second-largest zone, and is the most heavily wooded, with woodland comprising almost a third of land cover. This is composed principally of very large softwood forests; although in several locations these have been reduced in recent years as a consequence of wind energy development (for instance at Whitelee, straddling the boundary with Ayrshire). Substantial areas of relatively recent planting are also present, generally adjacent to larger existing forests.

**9.47** Given its moorland / upland character, the zone has comparatively little native woodland. This is mainly confined to the lower slopes, where small-scale riparian networks link into adjacent zones, and where native broadleaves have been incorporated as part of forest design for recently established softwood forests.

### Key Issues

**9.48** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Continued pressure for wind energy development
  - Future losses to consented schemes will be required to be compensated under the Scottish Government Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal
- The restructuring of some larger softwood forests will provide opportunities for peatland restoration on those areas of lowest productivity
- Ongoing and legacy mineral working sites.

### Local sensitivities

**9.49** Both portions of the zone have designations for internationally significant bird populations – the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands (breeding hen harrier) and Slamannan Plateau (overwintering Taiga bean geese) SPAs. New woodland in the vicinity of these sites – particularly the Slamannan Plateau – could have the potential to generate significant effects on supporting habitat, affecting the qualifying interests and/or the site conservation objectives. Similarly, a number of remnant peatlands are located in the eastern portion of the zone are designated SSSI, with Black Loch and North Shotts Mosses also being designated as

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)<sup>57</sup>. The historic Wilsontown Ironworks, dating from the late 18th century, are a key part of Scotland's industrial heritage. Located entirely within productive forest, a major campaign of research, investigation and conservation has been undertaken by Scottish Forestry to secure the future of a nationally significant asset and improve access to and understanding of the asset for visitors and local people alike.

### Priorities for woodland management

- Continued restructuring of existing softwood forests to improve second rotation timber quality, improve species and age class diversity and contribute to improved landscape, biodiversity and recreational values.

### Priorities for woodland expansion

- Delivering new well-designed softwood forests
  - There is more 'preferred' land (i.e. with no strategic constraints) in the eastern portion of the zone, but the presence of large numbers of small, nationally-designated sites and deep peat, means that proposals would require sensitive design and planning,
- Developing networks of native woodland on the lower slopes and drier ground to link to existing resources in adjacent zones
- Promoting the development of farm forestry to contribute to diversification and deliver appropriate productive woodlands.

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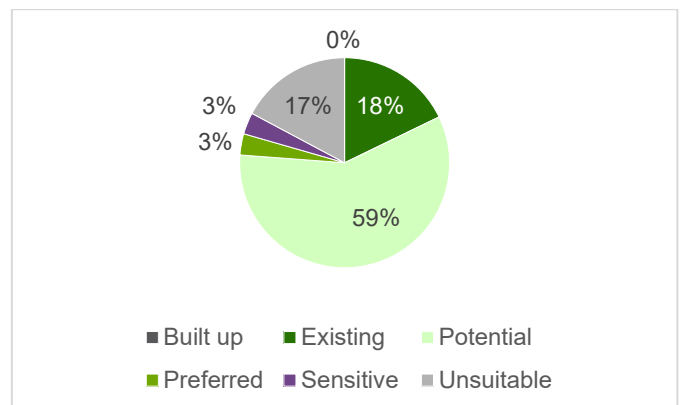
<sup>57</sup> Proposals with likely significant effects on SACs invoke the same requirement for HRA as SPAs

## Southern Uplands

### Overview

**9.50** Immediately south of the Southern Upland Fault lies a bold upland area with a character very different to the lower moorlands and hills to the north and west. The Southern Uplands are distinguished by their height (up to 575 m AOD), their geology and the influence of glacial erosion. The hills have steep, smooth slopes rising to rounded summits. A series of valleys are cut into the hills, providing routes for road and rail corridors and a number of small settlements, some of industrial origin [included in the Upland Valley zone].

**9.51** Landcover in the Southern Uplands is typically coarse grassland, though the highest areas often comprise heather moorland. Areas of rough grazing generally lack walled enclosures. Semi-natural woodland is scarce, limited to a few more sheltered glens, gullies and cleughs. There are also extensive areas of softwood forest, together with prominent, almost sculptural plantations, particularly around the fringes of the higher hills. Woodland cover in this zone has also been reduced as a result of wind farm development.



Zone location &

Breakdown of zone land categories

### Existing woodland resource

**9.52** As noted above, the bulk of the resource in this zone is composed of softwood forest, often still in its first rotation. This means that the landscape will change significantly – albeit temporarily – as these forests reach maturity, are harvested and restructured / restocked.

**9.53** The zone has very little native or mixed woodland, as this is concentrated on the valley floors and river corridors [included in Upland Valley zone].

### Key Issues

#### 9.54 Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Continued pressure for wind energy development
- Significant historical losses of woodland cover as a consequence of wind energy development
- Ongoing restructuring of softwood forests
- Low biodiversity value of transitional and upland valley landscapes, where new native woodland could make a substantial contribution to habitat enhancement
- Water management

and Corehead (both Scottish Borders) and the Devil's Beef Tub (Dumfries and Galloway) in the Southern Uplands; the Great Trossachs Forest around Loch Katrine in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, and work being taken forward through the South of Scotland Woodland Creation pilot.

### Local sensitivities

**9.55** The Southern Uplands, as some of the most significant areas of upland landscape outside Highland Scotland, are highly valued. Consequently, all but the central third of the zone is covered by Special Landscape Area designations, put in place by South Lanarkshire Council to conserve and enhance the key characteristics of the landscape. Proposals for new woodland within the designated area should be planned and delivered to reflect and conserve the key characteristics of the landscape. Further landscape guidance relating to appropriate forestry and woodland location and design for this zone is contained in the South Lanarkshire Council Landscape Character Assessment.

**9.56** Heritage also plays a role in the character of area, ranging from the remains of the main Roman road through southwest Scotland, and attendant fortifications, to the legacy of the historic lead mining and processing industry.

### Priorities for woodland management

- Continued restructuring and enhancement of existing softwood forests

### Priorities for woodland expansion

- Small scale expansion of carefully designed softwood forests
- Creating and expanding networks of native woodland in more sheltered valleys
- Contributing to sustainable water management and flood attenuation through the development of native woodland in the upper catchments of flood-prone burns and rivers
- Development of 'forest landscape restoration'-type initiatives, where appropriate, to improve the biodiversity value of upland landscapes
  - Building on the successes of exemplar projects, such as that of the Borders Forest Trust at Carrifran

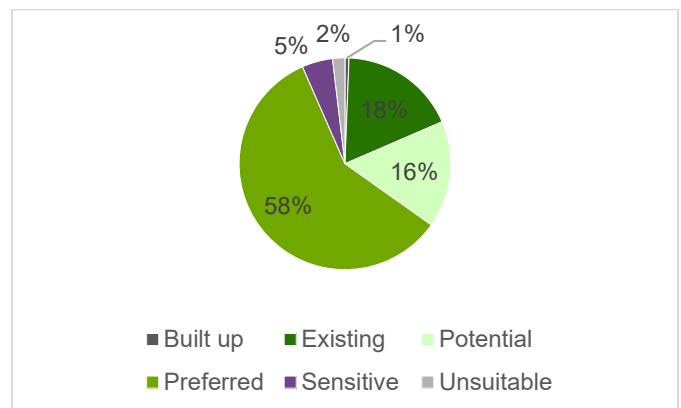


## Upland Farmland

### Overview

**9.57** This landscape is similar to the 'Farmland' zone, though characterised by more rugged, hummocky landforms and craggy bluffs. It occurs across Inverclyde, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire, divided by river valleys into three discrete areas:

- An area between the River Clyde and the Black Cart Water including Kilmacolm, Bridge of Weir and Erskine. This area straddles Inverclyde and Renfrewshire, and takes in Strathgryfe and parts of the former Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) site south of Bishopton;
- The hills which lie between Paisley and Johnstone in the north, and Neilston in the south, covering Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire; and
- The hills south of Neilston, in East Renfrewshire.



Zone location &

Breakdown of zone land categories

**9.58** The more complex, convoluted landforms and lower levels – and different types – of existing woodland cover mean that issues for management and expansion are potentially different.

### Existing woodland resource

**9.59** Around 16% of the zone is currently wooded, composed mainly of native broadleaved woodland (42%) and a further 20% softwood forests. All the woodlands in the zone are generally far smaller than the equivalents within the main 'Farmland' zone, and are more closely integrated with the character of the landscape. The zone also contains a number

of historic gardens and designed landscapes, three of which are included on the Inventory of nationally important sites. These, and a pattern of smaller estate centres and policy woodlands, contribute much to the general character of the area and the nature and distribution of woodland.

**9.60** The area has also experienced reasonably significant recent woodland creation, with young trees and recently planted areas respectively comprising 11% and 8% of the resource.

### Key Issues

**9.61** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Competition with existing land uses, particularly pastoral agriculture, potentially becoming more significant as a consequence of climate change
- Significant flood risk in Strathgryffe
- Locally important heathland habitats in the upper Gryffe catchment
- high concentration of locally important biodiversity sites (SINCs) and nationally designated wetland sites (SSSIs) which would be sensitive to hydrological impacts from adjacent woodland and forestry
- Building on already good levels of functional connectivity in woodland habitat networks
- Contributing to regeneration, development and creating successful distinctive places – particularly at the former ROF Bishopton where the essential ground remediation programme will temporarily affect current levels of tree cover.

### Local sensitivities

**9.62** As noted above, flooding is a significant issue for communities in the valley of the River Gryffe, both within the zone and downstream.

**9.63** The heritage of the area, particularly in the form of historic gardens and designed landscapes, both Inventory-listed and locally designated, and the historic towns and villages, require careful consideration in the planning and delivery of new woodland planting to ensure that their heritage values and significance are conserved. However, new woodland could play an important role in helping new development fit in to the landscape.

### Priorities for woodland management

- Positive management of the zone's historic gardens, designed landscapes and policy woodlands to optimise their heritage, landscape and biodiversity values

- Maintaining the health and function of existing riparian networks to secure their contribution to sustainable water management and flood attenuation
- Bringing small farm woodlands back into positive management to secure landscape and biodiversity benefits, and assist in delivering farm diversification
- Gradual restructuring of small conifer blocks to improve timber quality in subsequent rotations;
- Encouraging future thinning of planted woodlands, more diverse species choice and better landscape design

### Priorities for woodland expansion

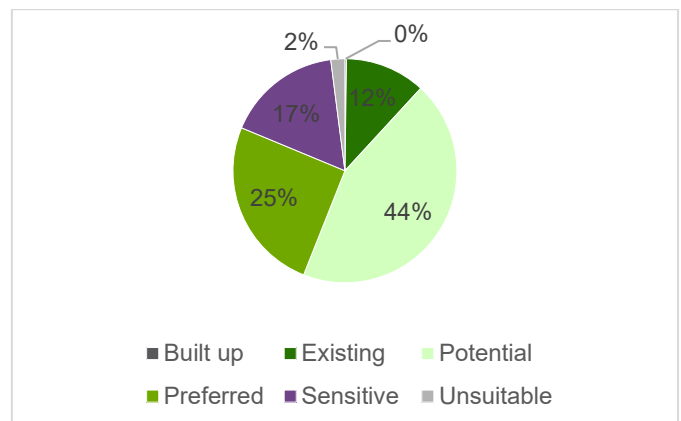
- Contributing to sustainable water management and flood attenuation through appropriate planting in the upper catchment of the River Gryffe to help intercept runoff and slow flow rates;
- Delivering new woodland in parallel with new housing development, particularly in subsequent phases of development at ROF Bishopton;
- Opportunities for well-designed mixed conifer planting where this supports farm diversification and fits with the existing farm woodland landscape.
- Promoting new, smaller-scale farm woodlands.

## Upland Valley

### Overview

**9.64** This zone comprises five separate river valleys and upland glens, cutting through the upland and pastoral landscape of the region. The character of these valleys is united by their south-west to north-east orientation, and by their relationship to the surrounding moorlands, although each of the five valleys has distinct characteristics. The five main valleys are:

- the Lovern Valley around Neilston;
- the upper Avon and Glengavel Water Valley;
- the Douglas Water Valley;
- the Duneaton Water Valley; and
- the upper Clyde Valley and its main tributaries rising in the Southern Uplands.



Zone location &  
Breakdown of zone land categories

### Existing woodland resource

**9.65** The zone is comparatively sparsely-wooded and is dominated by large softwood forests in the valley of the Douglas Water and the upper Clyde Valley. Given the upland nature of the zone, riparian woodland is relatively sparse, with broadleaves accounting for only 17% of the zone's woodland.

### Key Issues

**9.66** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Flood risk throughout the zone, but also affecting communities and assets downstream

- Presence of major transport corridors
- Effects of climate change on flooding and neighbouring land uses
- Some issues with agricultural diffuse pollution.

#### Local sensitivities

**9.67** The upper Clyde Valley, as the key historical route through the Southern Uplands, has a rich cultural heritage ranging from very early evidence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities, later prehistoric hillforts, Roman fortifications and road networks to medieval fortified farmsteads.

**9.68** As the zone is relatively tightly drawn to take in only the core valley floors, any proposed woodland expansion in these areas should also be aligned to the priorities for the adjacent zones to optimise the benefits delivered. The value of floodplain for other habitats and species, such as breeding waders at the confluences of the Medwin and Clyde should also be reflected in any planting proposals.

**9.69** The valleys are covered by Special Landscape Area designations including the Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto, the Douglas Valley and Leadhills and Lowther Hills.

#### Priorities for woodland management

- Ongoing restructuring of existing softwood forests to improve separation distances from watercourses and convey a wider range of benefits
- Conservation and enhancement of existing fragmentary riparian networks

#### Priorities for woodland expansion

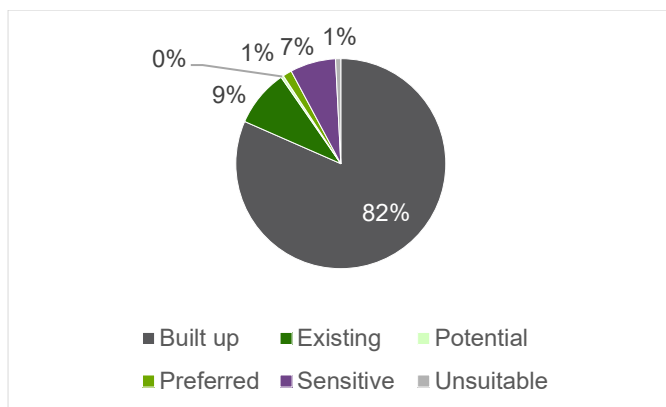
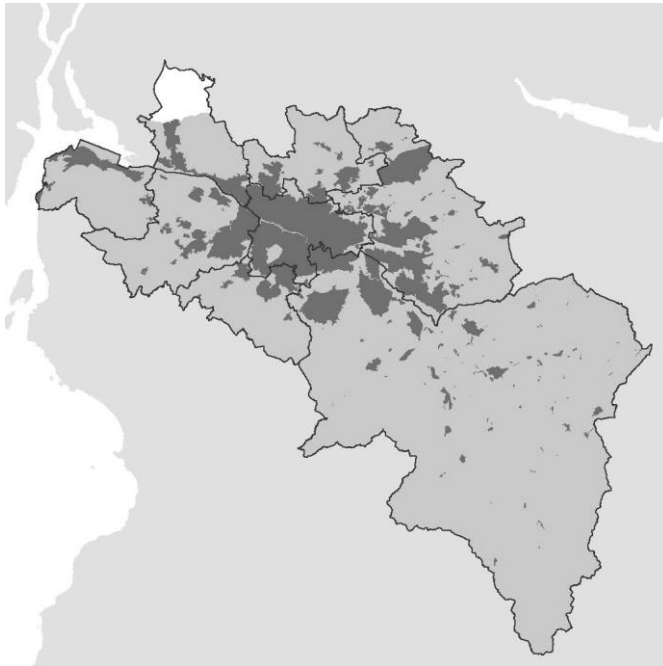
- Identification of appropriate areas for creation of new floodplain woodland to contribute to sustainable water management and flood attenuation
- Creating new riparian networks to link with the high-quality resources in the lower reaches of the Clyde and Avon valleys in particular.



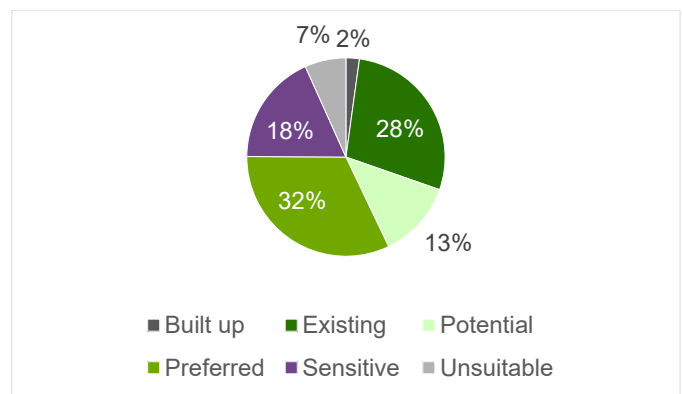
## Urban & Urban Greenspaces

### Overview

**9.70** These zones are considered together for simplicity – the large urban greenspaces (with the addition of the Broad Urban Valley landscape type) are retained from the Landscape Character Assessment as simply including them within the general urban area would appear incongruous on mapping outputs, and in reflection of their unique management requirements.



Zone location &  
Breakdown of zone land categories



Zone location &  
Breakdown of zone land categories

### Existing woodland resource

**9.71** The urban area itself accounts for 8% of the region's woodland cover, which is impressive given that it comprises Scotland's largest conurbation. The resource is overwhelmingly broadleaved and comprises several major river valleys cutting through the urban areas, the region's many parks and gardens and extensive amenity planting associated with development. The New Towns of Cumbernauld and East Kilbride were designed with extensive networks of woodland and greenspace, and recent environmental regeneration work across the region has delivered significant areas of expanded and enhanced woodland (e.g. as part of the Commonwealth Games legacy programme).

**9.72** The urban greenspaces zone represents remnant estate landscapes which have become ‘fossilised’ as open spaces within the greater Glasgow urban area. These have become important green spaces, connected to the countryside by green corridors, and forming a contrast to the surrounding city. They comprise: Pollok Park, located entirely within the City of Glasgow, and provides recreational parkland, as well as the setting for Pollok House and the Burrell Collection. The Hurlet Policies area lies between Glasgow, Paisley and Barrhead, straddling the boundaries of City of Glasgow, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire. This is a more fragmented area of settlement fringe, including policy woodlands, pasture and a golf course.

**9.73** The remainder of the zone comprises the ‘Broad Urban Valley’ Landscape Type, and consists of Strathclyde Country Park, land around the M74 and River Clyde in Hamilton, and a large area of derelict land between Carmyle and Newton.

### Key Issues

**9.74** Local issues for woodland and forestry include:

- Increasing pressures for recreational use of urban woodlands and greenspace
- Maintaining local authority woodlands in the face of ever-diminishing resources
- Long term management of amenity woodland connected with transport infrastructure where ownership is not always clear
- Remediation and reuse of vacant and derelict land
- Supporting settlement expansion and regeneration
- Managing the effects of anti-social behaviour, and designing new woodland with community safety as a key consideration
- Proximity to internationally and nationally important nature conservation sites include Inner Clyde SPA, Clyde Valley Woods SAC and NNR, and North Shotts Moss SAC.

### Local sensitivities

**9.75** Pollok Park, Hamilton Palace policies (now largely the Strathclyde Park golf course and sports grounds), and several green spaces in Glasgow are Inventory-listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes<sup>58</sup>, while many more areas of trees and woodland lie within Conservation Areas, therefore conserving and enhancing their nationally significant heritage features is a priority. The Hamilton Palace area forms part of a wider important cultural heritage treescape, comprising

Chatelherault Country Park, Hamilton High Parks and Bothwell Castle woods. Much of the open space and woodland around Hamilton Low Parks is proposed as a Local Nature Reserve. Mossneuk in East Kilbride is also a proposed LNR.

**9.76** Communities often enjoy strong attachments to local environmental resources, and the region’s woodlands are no exception. There are now substantial numbers of community woodlands, and WIAT schemes across the region have been highly successful in building engagement – however, any substantial change should be planned in a manner that involves local people and communities of interest in the process in an open and meaningful manner. Many urban greenspaces and woodlands are supported by local ‘friends of’ groups who play an important role in maintaining these areas.

**9.77** More detailed guidance for urban and urban fringe woodlands and trees will be found in local authority Open Space Strategies and Tree and Canopy Strategies, which will be subject to detailed local engagement and consultation.

**9.78** Flooding is a serious issue in much of the metropolitan area. Whilst waterlogging will have a negative effect on tree health, active management of woodlands through Surface Water Management Plans, and wider community engagement can provide opportunities to support appropriate surface water management solutions.

### Priorities for woodland management

- Building on existing successes (e.g. through WIAT) to bring under-managed publicly-owned woodlands back into positive management, delivering social and environmental benefits
- Ensuring that historic parks, gardens and street trees are covered by appropriate Conservation Management Plans so that management activities are informed by a good understanding of heritage significance
- Succession planning for parks, gardens and specimen trees to ensure long-term preservation of character and improved resilience to the effects of climate change
- Bringing under-managed urban fringe woodlands into positive management through SF ‘Woods In and Around Towns’ to improve the setting of existing and proposed development
- Working positively with communities to help understand their rights under the forthcoming Community Empowerment Act and bring forward appropriate proposals for community ownership and management of woodland assets.

<sup>58</sup> Kelvingrove, Victoria Park, the Botanic Gardens, and the Necropolis.

- Encouraging the eight Clydeplan local authorities to identify their current canopy cover and create targets to increase this.

#### Priorities for woodland expansion

- Reinforcing existing urban edge and river corridor woodlands to enhance their contribution to the setting of settlements
- Identifying areas of under-managed and/or under-performing areas of amenity grassland – ideally through Open Space Audits and Strategies, and locally-specific woodland policy and guidance – that could be partially converted to woodland. This can both reduce management and maintenance bills for local authorities and create attractive, flexible resources that can be managed to produce an income from biomass and other forest products.
- Continuing to identify 'stalled' development sites where woodland, including appropriate planting for biomass, can play a positive role in temporary greening solutions, contributing to green network objectives and improving local environments for communities
- Building on recent uses of woodland in bioremediation of contaminated land<sup>59</sup>, and identifying suitable sites on which to deploy the approach
- Ensuring new development delivers high quality, multi-benefit woodland with secure arrangements for ongoing management and maintenance whilst supporting ecosystem restoration
- Promoting the potential role of new street trees and urban woodlands in contributing to climate change adaptation – assisting in local micro-climate attenuation – and in helping to manage stormwater by improving infiltration and absorption
- Build [on creative proposals for retrofitting green infrastructure](#) in urban areas, where trees and woodland could make a meaningful contribution
- Encourage an urban forestry approach in the urban landscape zones of the Clydeplan area. The approach should use canopy cover as a metric for the trees, woodlands and forests in the urban zone.
- Expanding woodland networks in transport corridors to help address air quality issues and make an enhanced contribution to character and biodiversity.

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<sup>59</sup> This is noted as a particular opportunity for Inverclyde

## Chapter 10

### Monitoring

**10.1** Monitoring should be undertaken in line with the proposed review period for the Strategy and will play an important role in measuring the success of the strategy and identifying areas for review.

**10.2** Table 10.1 outlines the proposed key topics for which monitoring should be undertaken.

**Table 10.1: Monitoring**

| Topic                         | Issue  | Data Source   | Indicator   |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Habitat networks: broadleaved woodland   | <i>IHN woodland dataset</i>   | Maintenance of core areas of woodland and key links                           |
|                               | Loss of key habitat links  | <i>Phase 1 habitat Survey data where available</i>                                | Increase in total area of physical and functional connectivity                |
|                               | Creation of new links  | <i>Relevant biological records centres – records</i>                              | Species distribution  |
|                               | Protection of core areas of biodiversity significance  | <i>LBAP monitoring</i>  |   |
|                               | Total area<br>Opportunities for species movement and migration as a result of climate change | <i>SNH</i>  |   |
|                               | Distribution of invasive species   | <i>Scottish Biodiversity Forum<br/>Plantlife</i>                                  | Decrease in distribution of invasive species                                  |
|                               | Loss of structural diversity in plantations to satisfy economic demands of timber production | <i>SF funding database<br/>Forest Design Plans<br/>Illegal felling incidences</i> | Increase in structural diversity of woodland                                  |
|                               | Designated site condition  | <i>SNH site condition monitoring</i>  | No decrease in site condition associated with woodland planting or changes in |



| Topic                 | Issue   | Data Source  | Indicator  |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
|                       |   |  | hydrology associated with woodland planting  |
|                       | Type of woodland  | <i>National Forest Inventory</i>   | Increase in area of woodland by all types  |
| Soil/Climatic factors | Area of peat soil   | <i>SNH Peatland dataset / Forestry Commission Scotland</i><br><i>SEPA monitoring</i> | No loss of deep peat / functional peatland habitat to forestry operations                  |
|                       | Area of peat soil restored  | <i>SNH Peatland dataset / Forestry Commission Scotland</i><br><i>SEPA monitoring</i> | Rehabilitation of peat soils (ha) previously affected by forestry                          |
|                       | Prime agricultural land   | <i>JHI</i>   | No loss of prime agricultural land to forestry and woodland                                |
|                       | Vacant and derelict land  | <i>Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Survey / Local authorities</i>       | Increase in area of vacant and derelict land reclaimed by woodland planting (ha)           |
|                       | Area of woodland  | <i>Scottish Forestry</i>   | Increase in area of woodland   |
| Landscape             | Local landscape character and protected landscapes                              | <i>Regional / local LCAs</i>   | No adverse changes to local landscape character through inappropriate afforestation        |
| Air quality           | Pollution and emissions resulting from the timber transportation and processing | <i>SEPA</i><br><i>Scottish Government Statistics</i>                                 | No increase in pollution and emissions resulting from timber transportation and processing |

| Topic                       | Issue  | Data Source   | Indicator  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
|                             | Levels of particulate emissions from promotion of wood fuel technologies | <i>Scottish Government</i>  | No increase in particulate emissions   |
| Historic Environment        | Quality of archeology and the historic environment                       | <i>Historic Scotland</i><br><i>WoSAS HER data</i>                         | No adverse impacts on cultural heritage resources as a result of forestry activities<br><br>Enhanced access and understanding of cultural heritage resources |
| Population and human health | Levels of use of woodlands for recreation                                | <i>Scottish Forestry and local authority access monitoring</i>            | Increased levels of use of forestry and woodland for recreation  |
|                             | Woodland path network  | <i>Scottish Forestry and local authority access monitoring</i>            | Increase in length of path network   |
|                             | Community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership     | <i>Scottish Forestry grant scheme monitoring and local authority data</i> | Increase in community involvement  |
| Water                       | Water quality  | <i>SEPA</i>   | Improvement in water quality in catchments with woodland planting  |
|                             | Flood risk   | <i>SEPA</i>   | Area of woodland planted in areas of flood risk and flood risk catchments  |

## **Appendix A**

### **Policy context**

## Policy context

### Forestry

#### The Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-29

**A.1** The national policy context for the Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region is set by Scotland's Forestry Strategy (SFS)<sup>60</sup> (2019-29) which outlines Scottish Ministers' aspirations for Scotland's woodland resource, highlighting key themes, issues and policies for expansion and management.

**A.2** It sets out a vision which looks ahead to the second half of this century but focuses on the key priorities until 2029. Its vision is that:

**A.3** *"In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodland, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient, adaptable resource, with greater natural capital value, that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment, and healthy and flourishing communities".*

**A.4** The policies of the SFS are reinforced by the current suite of Forestry Commission guidance in particular the mandatory **UK Forestry Standard** (UKFS), supported by the voluntary **UK Woodland Assurance Standard** (UKWAS). These policies should ensure best practice in woodland design and management. Meeting these policies is a requirement of grant assistance.

**A.5** The SFS sets the context for a number of policy documents and initiatives which expand upon the role of woodland and forestry in meeting a broad range of objectives. **The Woods In and Around Towns** (WIAT) initiative, delivered through the Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) and the Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) funds in the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) 2014-2020, aims to improve and regenerate urban woodlands close to where people live and work (within 1km of settlements with a population of over 2000 people). **The Role of Scotland's National Forest Estate and Strategic Directions 2013-2016** is a strategic plan which defines how Scottish Forestry, through its operating arm, Forestry and Land Scotland, will implement Scotland's Forestry Strategy in the National Forest Estates. The strategy is complemented by a set of strategic plans – one for each of the ten forest districts. The **Scottish**

**Lowlands District Strategic Plan 2014-2017** covers the national forest estate in all the Clydeplan local authorities, with part of South Lanarkshire covered by the **Dumfries and Borders District Strategic Plan 2014-2017**, and part of West Dunbartonshire covered by the **Cowal and Trossachs District Strategic Plan 2014-2017**.

#### Rationale for Woodland Expansion

**A.6** [The Scottish Government's Rationale for Woodland Expansion](#)<sup>61</sup> sets out the Scottish Government's vision on how woodland expansion can best increase the delivery of public benefits from Scotland's land in line with the contents of the Scottish Forestry Strategy. It notes the role of woodland expansion and management in:

- Helping to tackle greenhouse gas emissions;
- Restoring lost habitats and adapting to climate change;
- Delivering ecosystem services;
- Underpinning a sustainable forest products industry;
- Supporting rural development;
- Providing community benefits; and,
- Enhancing urban areas and improving landscapes.

**A.7** It sets a target of planting a further 650,000ha of woodland, necessitating a planting rate averaging **10,000-15,000ha per year**. This has been adopted as the national target, and is a critical means of achieving Scotland's emission reduction commitments<sup>62</sup>.

#### Policy on Control of Woodland Removal

**A.8** [The Scottish Government's Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal](#)<sup>63</sup> and the Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal: Implementation Guidance<sup>64</sup> seeks to facilitate the desired increase in woodland area by preventing avoidable woodland loss. It establishes the need for compensatory planting where development proposals or forestry work necessitates the loss of woodland.

#### Scotland Rural Development Programme

**A.9** The [Scotland Rural Development Programme](#) (SRDP) includes a range of options to fund many types of woodland

<sup>60</sup> Scottish Executive, 2019. *Scotland's Forestry Strategy*. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive.

<sup>61</sup> Scottish Government, 2009. *The Scottish Government's Rationale for Woodland Expansion*. [pdf]. Available at: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/ForestExpansion.pdf> [Accessed 01 November 2014]

<sup>62</sup> See Low Carbon Scotland: Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027

<sup>63</sup> Scottish Government, 2009. *The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal*. [pdf]. Available at: <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/fcfc125.pdf> [Accessed 01 November 2014]

<sup>64</sup> Scottish Government (2019) Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal: implementation guidance. Available at: <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/349-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal-implementation-guidance>

creation and management that can be utilised to meet the specific characteristics of the region.

**A.10** The Forestry Grant Scheme encourages an increase in the sustainable management of existing woodlands and the creation of well-designed woodlands and forests<sup>65</sup> in areas identified as being 'preferred' or 'potential' in forestry and woodland strategies, priority areas in the Scottish Forestry - SEPA opportunity map for riparian woodland, priority areas for woodland expansion in the Cairngorms National Park, and in the Central Scotland Green Network.

**A.11** The Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) of the Forestry Grant Scheme prioritises the improvement of existing woodlands by providing grants to:

- encourage natural regeneration which will benefit priority habitats and species (through the Habitats and Species grant);
- increase species and structural diversity through the use of Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) (through the LISS grant);
- contribute to the sustainable management of urban woodlands and improve public access (through the Woods In and Around Towns [WIAT] grant);
- support the preparation of forest and/or management plans that set out management objectives for woodlands (through grant support for Long-term land management plans Plans; Forest Plan Renewals; Woodland Grazing Management Plans; WIAT Urban Woodland Management Plans; and, Deer Management Plans); and,
- improve the biodiversity, resilience, and structural diversity of even aged woodlands (through the Restructuring Regeneration grant).

The Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) of the Forestry Grant Scheme supports a range of activities in existing woodlands that will:

- increase species and structural diversity through LISS management (through the LISS grant);
- encourage natural regeneration to expand native woodlands (through the Native Woodlands grant);
- bring native woodland and designated woodland features into active management and good ecological condition (through the Livestock Exclusion, and Woodland Grazing grants);

- support the management of rural and urban woodlands for public access (through the Public Access - Rural Woods, and Public Access – WIAT grants); and,
- control the spread of non-native invasive species (through the Grey Squirrel Control; Predator Control for Capercaillie and Black Grouse, and Reducing Deer Impact grants).
- Other support measures identified in the Forestry Grant Scheme include the:
  - Agroforestry grant which provides support to create small scale woodland within sheep grazing pastures;
  - Tree Health grant which provides support for the restoration of forests affected by tree diseases by removing infected trees and carrying out subsequent replanting;
  - Harvesting and Processing grant which supports investments in new specialised equipment to increase the local small-scale harvesting and processing capacity with the aim of bringing woodlands into positive management; promoting the economic and sustainable production of timber and timber products through processing; adding value to local economies on a non-industrial scale; providing support to facilitate and support diversification and to assist with the creation of new small enterprises and related employment;
  - Forest Infrastructure grant which provides support for new access infrastructure to bring small scale, undermanaged woodlands or inaccessible woodlands back into active management to improve the economic value of forest and woodland through timber production; increase the area of woodland that is in sustainable management; and improve the environmental and social benefit of woodland.

### Central Scotland Green Network

**A.12** Within the pan-regional policy context, [the Central Scotland Green Network](#) (CSGN) is defined as a 'national development' within the [National Planning Framework 3](#)<sup>66</sup>, encompassing 19 local authorities across Central Scotland, which aims to change the face of Central Scotland by restoring and improving the rural and urban landscape of the area. The CSGN's vision has been defined as follows:

*"By 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality".*

<sup>65</sup> In particular conifer, diverse conifer and broadleaved woodlands and forests.

<sup>66</sup> A 'national development' must be supported in all lower tier plans and strategies.



**A.13** Over the lifespan of NPF3, CSGN and its lead organisations will focus on:

- Promoting active travel;
- Addressing vacant and derelict land; and
- Focussing action in disadvantaged areas to maximise community and health benefits.

**A.14** There is substantial synergy between the aims of CSGN and those of the Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be a key tool for delivering CSGN actions in the Clydeplan area.

## Planning

### Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

**A.15** The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 forms an important part of the Scottish Government's planning reforms, based on the independent review of the planning system which was reported in May 2016. Having received Royal Assent on 25th July 2019, the Act will likely be followed by secondary legislation required to implement the provisions of the Act. Of relevance to this current strategy is the new provision within the Act which requires planning authorities to prepare a forestry and woodland strategy. Two or more planning authorities may act jointly to prepare such a strategy.

**A.16** Supplementary Guidance will no longer hold 'development plan' status and any supplementary guidance produced under the 2019 Act will be non-statutory supplementary guidance.

### National Planning Framework

**A.17** The finalised version of the **National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3)**<sup>67</sup> published on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014, aims to increase the rate of woodland creation to deliver 100,000 hectares of new woodland over the next 10 years. In addition, NPF3 pledged to plant 100 million trees by 2015, and to take action towards delivering the proposal in Low Carbon Scotland (RPP2) to increase the rate of peatland restoration to 22,000 hectares per year.

### Scottish Planning Policy

**A.18** The Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014) sets out the Scottish Government's national level policy on the purpose, practice and core principles of spatial planning.

**A.19** Paragraph 194 of the **Scottish Planning Policy**<sup>68</sup> requires the protection and enhancement of ancient and semi-natural woodland as an important and irreplaceable resource, together with other native or long established woods, hedgerows and individual trees with high nature conservation or landscape value. It highlights the value of the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland in the production of forestry and woodland strategies.

**A.20** Paragraph 201 states that "*plans should identify woodlands of high nature conservation value and include policies for protecting them and enhancing their condition and resilience to climate change*". Paragraph 201 also states that planning authorities should prepare forestry and woodland strategies as supplementary guidance to inform the development of forestry and woodland in their area, including the expansion of woodland of a range of types to provide multiple benefits. In addition, paragraph 201 highlights that Scottish Government advice on planning for forestry and woodland is set out in *The Right Tree in the Right Place*.

**A.21** The SPP acknowledges the role that woodlands can play in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Paragraph 220 states that green infrastructure should be protected and enhanced to provide multiple benefits.

## Forestry and Planning

### The Right Tree in the Right Place – Planning for Forestry and Woodlands

**A.22** **The Right Tree in the Right Place – Planning for Forestry and Woodlands**<sup>69</sup> sets the current context for the production of indicative forestry strategies. New forestry and woodland strategies have been published for Edinburgh and the Lothians, Stirling and Clackmannanshire, Fife, Argyll and Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, and Ayrshire and Arran.

### Getting the best from our land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland

**A.23** **Getting the best from our land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016-2021**<sup>70</sup> sets the strategic framework for bringing together proposals for optimising the potential of Scotland's land resources.

**A.24** It establishes the vision and objectives for land-based economic activity in Scotland and sets out ten 'principles for sustainable land use', which should be taken into account in

<sup>67</sup> Scottish Government, 2014. *Scotland's Third National Planning Framework*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

<sup>68</sup> Scottish Government, 2014. *Scottish Planning Policy*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

<sup>69</sup> Scottish Government, 2010. *The Right Tree in the Right Place – Planning for Forestry and Woodlands*. [pdf] Edinburgh: Scottish Forestry. Available at:

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc129.pdf/\\$FILE/fcfc129.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc129.pdf/$FILE/fcfc129.pdf) [Accessed 01 April 2014]

<sup>70</sup> Scottish Government, 2016. *Getting the Best from our Land: A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016-2021*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

the development of the Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region. These are:

1. Opportunities for land use to deliver multiple benefits should be encouraged.
2. Regulation should continue to protect essential public interests whilst placing as light a burden on businesses as is consistent with achieving its purpose. Incentives should be efficient and cost-effective.
3. Where land is highly suitable for a primary use (for example food production, flood management, water catchment management and carbon storage) this value should be recognised in decision-making.
4. Land use decisions should be informed by an understanding of the functioning of the ecosystems which they affect in order to maintain the benefits the ecosystem services they provide.
5. Landscape change should be managed positively and sympathetically, considering the implications of change at a scale appropriate to the landscape in question, given that all Scotland's landscapes are important to our sense of identity and to our individual and social well-being.
6. Land-use decisions should be informed by an understanding of the opportunities and threats brought about by the changing climate. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with land use should be reduced and land should continue to contribute to delivering climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives.
7. Where land has ceased to fulfil a useful function because it is derelict or vacant, this represents a significant loss of economic potential and amenity for the community concerned. It should be a priority to examine options for restoring all such land to economic, social or environmentally productive uses.
8. Outdoor recreation opportunities and public access to land should be encouraged, along with the provision of accessible green space close to where people live, given their importance to health and well-being.
9. People should have opportunities to contribute to debates and decisions about land use and management decisions which affect their lives and their future.
10. Opportunities to broaden our understanding of the links between land use and daily living should be encouraged.

## Climate Change

### The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009

**A.25 The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009<sup>71</sup>** establishes the legal framework for emissions reductions by 2050. The Act sets targets for the reduction in carbon emissions of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 (1990 baseline). From 2020, Scotland will need to reduce its emissions by at least 3% per year.

**A.26** While the Strategy can play only a very limited role in achieving these targets, it is important to acknowledge the reliance of the forestry sector – in common with all land-based industries – on the use of fossil fuels. Of particular importance are issues of improving the sustainability of timber transport and forest operations reliant on the use of heavy machinery.

### Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme

**A.27 Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024<sup>72</sup>** sets out Scottish Ministers' objectives, policies and proposals to tackle the climate change impacts identified for Scotland in the UK Climate Risk Assessment as required by section 53 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

**A.28** The Programme seeks to set out policies and proposals which will *"increase the capacity of Scotland's people, communities, business and public sector to adapt to climate change."*

**A.29** With regards to woodland and forestry, the Programme identifies that *"Scotland's nature-based industries will be the most directly impacted"*, with for example forestry faces new pests and diseases, increased risk of damage due to increases in extreme events including storms, wildfires, heavy rainfall or droughts.

**A.30** There is an acknowledgement that businesses may see *"improved productivity in the forestry and agriculture sectors"*. The forestry sector *"contributes £1 billion per year to the Scottish economy and supports more than 25,000 jobs"*. The Government is *"committed to delivering economic, social and environmental benefits through forestry in Scotland"*.

**A.31** The Programme highlights that *"Forests and trees can help non-forestry businesses adapt to climate change by, for example, providing shelter for livestock, shading for buildings in urban areas, and natural flood management"*.

**A.32** The Programme identifies Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-29 as the key current policy document which will bring forward forests and woodlands which will seek to:

<sup>71</sup> Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

<sup>72</sup> Scottish Government, 2019. *Climate Ready Scotland: Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

- Expand Forests and Woodlands;
- Improve efficiency and productivity;
- Enhance environmental benefits;
- Enhance engagement in woodland creation and forest management; and
- Increase the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands

**11.2** The Programme further details research which will be progressed in relation to forestry and woodland:

- 'Lessons on Risk Management from the Finance Sector for Climate Change Adaptation in Scotland's Forestry Sector';
- 'Forest Resilience and Adaptation'; and
- 'The Role of Contingency Planning in Climate Change Adaptation in the Forestry Sector in Scotland'

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment risks which will be addressed by the policies in relation to forestry and woodland include the following:

- Ne3: Risks and opportunities from changes in agricultural and forestry productivity and land suitability;
- Ne9: Risks to agriculture, forestry, landscapes and wildlife from pests, pathogens and invasive species; and
- Ne10: Risks to agriculture, forestry and wildlife and heritage from changes in frequency and/or magnitude of extreme weather and wildfire events.

## Biodiversity

**11.3** Scottish Biodiversity Strategy – Scotland's Biodiversity It's in Your Hands, Scottish Executive 2004. A strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Scotland. Our Vision: It is 2030: Scotland is recognised as a world leader in biodiversity conservation. Everyone is involved; everyone benefits. The nation is enriched. Our Aim: To conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland now and in the future

**11.4** 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity. Scotland's 2020 Challenge aims to:

- protect and restore biodiversity on land and in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems.

- connect people with the natural world, for their health and wellbeing and to involve them more in decisions about their environment.
- maximise the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth.

**11.5** Under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, all public bodies in Scotland are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 requires public bodies in Scotland to provide a publicly available report every three years, on the actions which they have taken to meet this biodiversity duty.

## Natural resources

### The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009

**A.33 The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009**<sup>73</sup> places a duty on responsible authorities (including local authorities and Scottish Water) to manage flooding in a sustainable manner and ensure the adoption of consistent principles and practices.

**A.34** The Flood Risk Management Act guides the way that land use interacts with flood risk. This may, for example, influence the provision of woodland within river catchments in order to intercept rainfall and slow run-off into rivers, or lead to the restoration of functional floodplains where these have been lost in the past.

### River Basin Management Planning

**A.35 The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District 2015-2027 (Dec 2015)**<sup>74</sup> provides detailed information on the environmental quality of rivers, lochs and seas and sets out what needs to be achieved for all water bodies in the area to reach 'good ecological status'.

### Natural Flood Management Handbook (2015)

<sup>75</sup>

**A.36** The handbook provides a practical guide to the delivery of natural flood management which benefits flooding and results in other positive outcomes which benefit the environment, society and the economy.

**A.37** Woodland creation has been identified as a key resource which can play an important role in natural flood management and result in environmental benefits. There are three types of woodland 'measure types': Catchment woodlands (reduce runoff); floodplain woodlands (reduce runoff and provide

<sup>73</sup> Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

<sup>74</sup> Scottish Government, 2015. *The River Basin Management Plan for the Scotland River Basin District 2015-2027*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

<sup>75</sup> Natural Flood Management Handbook (2015) Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/163560/sepa-natural-flood-management-handbook1.pdf> (Accessed 6 November 2019)

floodplain storage) and riparian woodlands (reduce runoff and provide floodplain storage).

**A.38** The handbook identifies that well-sited and well managed floodplain and riparian woodland can *“provide important wildlife habitat and increased canopy shade and shelter for water-based flora and fauna. They can also provide shelter and shade for livestock and prevent damage to crops and soil erosion. Trees absorb and lock up carbon thus helping to reduce net carbon emissions, while riparian woodland can stabilise banks and help prevent excessive deposition of sediment instream. Strategically placed woodland can also reduce diffuse pollution by intercepting pollutant laden runoff”*.

**A.39** The Handbook notes that the effects of woodlands on large scale floods are not yet clear, modelling data suggests that woodlands (particularly floodplain woodlands) may have an effect upon catchments of less than 100km<sup>2</sup> (local flooding) or more frequent flood events. Woodland planting can also enhance soil infiltration pathways and water storage capacity and reducing surface runoff, erosion and sediment loss.

**A.40** As woodlands become more established, it is expected that more data on the direct effects of the woodland creation will become established.

#### The Scottish Soil Framework

**A.41 The Scottish Soil Framework 2009**<sup>76</sup> aims to raise awareness of the services soils provide to society and the pressures they encounter. Scotland’s soil resource is in generally good health, but is under pressure from soil carbon loss and the effects of climate change. Ensuring forestry planning and practice protects key soil carbon resources and maximises woodlands potential to lock up carbon in soils is a key aspect of the Strategy.

#### Scotland’s National Peatland Plan

**A.42 Scotland’s National Peatland Plan: Working for our future**<sup>77</sup> sets out a strategic framework to protect, manage, and where required, restore peatlands. The plan states that peatlands are ecosystems, with a peat deposit exceeding 50cm, which may currently support vegetation that is peat-forming, may not, or may lack vegetation entirely. The plan recognises that carbon stock can be boosted by increasing Scotland’s woodland cover outwith peatland areas. Bog woodland is recognised as one of the rarest peatland habitats in Scotland.

#### UK Forestry Standard

**A.43 UK Forestry Standard (UKFS)**<sup>78</sup> is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK and frames woodland creation. The UKFS approach applies forestry management criteria agreed at international and European levels and seeks to demonstrate that these agreements are applied appropriately to the management of forestry and woodland in the UK.

**A.44** The UKFS notes that new forestry/woodland should be avoided on soils with peat exceeding 50cm in depth and on sites that would compromise the hydrology of adjacent bog or wetland habitats. Woodland creation on certain sites where deep peat soils have historically been highly modified may be considered, provided that it complies with the relevant country policy.

**A.45** With specific regard to peat, the UKFS states that *“the carbon benefits associated with woodland creation are generally greatest on soils with low levels of organic matter, such as mineral soils. On some peat soils the magnitude of soil carbon losses due to disturbance and oxidation can be greater than carbon uptake by tree growth over the long term. Oxidation and degradation can also result from changes to the local hydrology by planting adjacent to these sites. For this reason, and for reasons of habitat and biodiversity value, there is a general presumption against forest establishment on deep peat soils. This is particularly the case for raised bogs and blanket bogs. More detailed policies in relation to peat soils are determined at a country level”*.

<sup>76</sup> Scottish Government, 2009. *The Scottish Soil Framework*. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

<sup>77</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage, 2015. *Scotland’s National Peatland Plan: Working for our future*. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-national-peatland-plan-working-our-future> [Accessed 06 November 2019]

<sup>78</sup> The UK Forestry Standard. Available at: <https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland>



## Appendix B

### Mapping methodology

#### Context

**B.1** Scottish Government advice 'The Right Tree in the Right Place' provided the context for the mapping work, outlining the broad criteria that Forestry and Woodland Strategies should follow. It states that '*woodland strategies should divide land into categories, including the suitability of different locations for new woodland planting,*' defining the following recommended categories:

- **Preferred** land will be that which offers the *greatest scope to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types*, and hence, to deliver on a very wide range of objectives. Within preferred areas sensitivities are, in general, likely to be limited, and it should be possible to address any particular site specific issues within well designed proposals that meet the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines. Future woodland expansion is therefore likely to be focused on preferred areas. Site surveys will be required in line with the UK Forestry Standard, in order to identify project-level sensitivities and whether planting is appropriate
- **Potential** land will be that which offers considerable potential to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, but *where at least one significant sensitivity exists*. The extent to which specific proposals in potential areas will be permissible will depend on how well sensitivities can be addressed within the proposals. The design of schemes in such areas will require careful consideration. Site surveys will be required, in line with the UK Forestry Standard, in order to identify project-level sensitivities and whether planting is appropriate.
- **Sensitive** areas will be those where a *combination of sensitivities means there is limited scope to accommodate further woodland expansion*. Limited woodland expansion is only likely to be possible within sensitive areas where it is of a scale and character which can be accommodated without significant negative impacts and/or where it would positively enhance the features of interest locally. In some areas cumulative impact may be a relevant consideration. *It will be for planning authorities to determine the detailed list of sensitivities* locally that should inform the categorisation of land, but it is expected that this will include priority species and habitats, landscape, the

cultural and historical environment, and interactions with the water environment and soils.

**B.2** It is clear from The Right Tree in the Right Place that planning authorities are responsible for developing an approach that is suitable for their area of responsibility and adequately addresses the environmental sensitivities of that area at an appropriate scale and level of detail.

## Interpretation

**B.3** The Right Tree in the Right Place implies that the 'land categorisation' map should apply to **all** woodland types, representing a summation of the key sensitivities that should influence decisions on proposed woodland expansion.

**B.4** As a regional strategy, the Forestry and Woodland Strategy for the Glasgow City Region and its attendant Strategic Environmental Assessment focus on regionally significant sensitivities and environmental effects. Figure 5.1 was therefore compiled using GIS datasets that depicted the

**Table B.1: List of Datasets**

| Dataset                                       | Source                          | Data Date | Selection Criteria  |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>Existing forestry/woodland</b>             |                                 |           |   |
| National Forest Inventory                     | <a href="#">FCS</a>             | 2018      | Woodland category (all categories): "Category" = 'Woodland'   |
| Ancient Woodland Inventory                    | <a href="#">SNH</a>             | 2017      |   |
| Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS)     | <a href="#">FCS</a>             | 2014      |   |
| <b>Unsuitable</b>                             |                                 |           |   |
| Water feature (loch, reservoir, river, canal) | <a href="#">Ordnance Survey</a> | 2017      | OS VectorMapDistrict<br>Tidal water and surface water (area)  |
| Land Capability for Forestry (LCF)            | <a href="#">JHI</a>             | 2013      | 1:250,000 dataset<br>Areas identified as 'Land unsuitable for trees'.<br>"LAND_CLASS" = 'Land unsuitable for trees' |
| <b>Sensitive<sup>79</sup></b>                 |                                 |           |   |
| Conservation Areas (CA)                       | <a href="#">HS</a>              | 03/2020   |   |
| Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)         | <a href="#">HS</a>              | 04/2020   |   |
| Battlefields                                  | <a href="#">HS</a>              | 08/2018   |   |
| World Heritage Sites (WHS)                    | <a href="#">HS</a>              | 10/2018   | Cultural only, no natural   |
| Scheduled Monuments (SM)                      | <a href="#">HS</a>              | 04/2020   |   |
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC)            | <a href="#">SNH</a>             | 06/2019   |   |
| Special Protection Area (SPA)                 | <a href="#">SNH</a>             | 07/2019   |   |

most important environmental features of the region, but does not include peatland constraints. In line with The Right Tree in the Right Place, each of the identified sensitivities was then assigned to the 'sensitive' or 'potential' category, depending on the likely level of constraint their presence would impose on *any type* of future woodland expansion, as indicated in Table B.1 List of Datasets<sup>79</sup>.

**B.5** Additional land categories were selected to draw out key messages of the Strategy:

- **Existing woodland:** highlighting the presence (or absence) of the current woodland resource in the region.
- **Unsuitable:** areas assessed as being physically unsuitable for the growth or management of trees.
- **Built-up:** larger settlements – reflecting the focus on regeneration and economic development, and the fact that opportunities for new woodland within settlements are often too small to map at a strategic scale.

<sup>79</sup> Local Nature Conservation sites are assigned to the 'potential' category. However South Lanarkshire Council has no designated LNCS in its area as this exercise is currently being progressed. There are numerous sites in South Lanarkshire which meet the criteria for LNCS status and it is important that

these are taken into account when assessing proposals for new forestry and woodland planting. This may include land within any of the FWS.

<sup>80</sup> The 2018 assessment included Peatland in the Sensitive category. For the 2019 reassessment this indicator has been removed.

| Dataset                                    | Source                     | Data Date | Selection Criteria   |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Ramsar site                                | <a href="#">SNH</a>        | 12/2018   |  |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | <a href="#">SNH</a>        | 11/2019   |  |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR)              | <a href="#">SNH</a>        | 06/2018   |  |
| Wild Land 2014                             | <a href="#">SNH</a>        | 08/2017   |  |
| Land Capability for Agriculture            | JHI                        | 2013      | 1:50,000 dataset.<br>Used only Classes 1-3.1<br>"LCCODE" <= 3.1"   |
| <b>Built up area</b>                       |                            |           |  |
| Settlement boundaries                      | Clydeplan                  | 02/2020   | Data based on NRS2019_2 and Local Development Plan datasets  |
| Local Plan allocations                     | Clydeplan                  | 09/2019   | Including 2018 land supply active sites data for housing, industrial and business  |
| <b>Potential</b>                           |                            |           |  |
| Wetland habitat                            | <a href="#">SNH / CSGN</a> | 09/2012   | Core and none-core habitats only<br>"zonetype" = 'wetland habitat'   |
| Neutral grassland habitat                  | <a href="#">SNH / CSGN</a> | 09/2012   | Core and none-core habitats only<br>"zonetype" = 'neutral grassland habitat'   |
| Acid grassland habitat                     | <a href="#">SNH / CSGN</a> | 01/2013   | Core and none-core habitats only<br>"zonetype" = 'acid grassland habitat'<br><br>Added for the 2018 assessment and used for the 2019 reassessment as well. |
| Heathland habitat                          | <a href="#">SNH / CSGN</a> | 09/2012   | Core and none-core habitats only<br>"zonetype" = 'heathland habitat'<br><br>Added for the 2018 assessment and used for the 2019 reassessment as well.      |
| Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS)      | Clydeplan                  | 03/2020   |  |
| Local Nature Reserve (LNR)                 | <a href="#">SNH</a>        | 06/2018   |  |
| Local Landscape Designations               | Clydeplan                  | 11/2019   |  |
| Vacant and/or derelict land                | Clydeplan                  | 09/2019   | 2018 lands supply of active sites  |
| <b>Preferred</b>                           |                            |           |  |
| Clydeplan area                             | Clydeplan                  |           | All the remaining parts of the Clydeplan area  |

## Key assumptions

**B.6** It is critical to understand that the mapping provided in this Strategy is necessarily indicative and that site-specific constraints and opportunities exist within each land classification – but cannot be effectively recorded or depicted at a scale appropriate for the Strategy. Detailed assessment of individual woodland creation proposals, as required by forestry legislation and regulations, remains the primary means of environmental safeguarding. As noted above – and expanded upon in the Environmental Report – the mapping depends upon the effective administration of existing environmental

safeguards (e.g. the UK Forestry Standard, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the suite of Forestry Commission guidance). The maps in this document are therefore intended only to guide applicants towards suitable sites and to highlight areas where particularly objectives apply.

**B.7** The constituent datasets were all captured at different scales/resolutions which limit the range of scales at which the map can be used effectively.

### GIS modelling process

**B.8** A range of options for map creation were considered during the course of the original project, but ultimately a relatively simple approach based on intersection of sensitivities was adopted, for a number of reasons:

- Transparency and potential for consultation in arriving at components of each land class and their relationships
- Greater certainty of results – as opposed to approaches using weighting / grid-based intersection analysis

**B.9** Each of the datasets listed in Table B.1 was assembled into a unified 'category' layer using the relevant operations in ArcGIS. The seven category layers were then joined using a series of 'union' processes, which intersects each layer in the desired order and retains attribute information.

**B.10** The resulting dataset was then streamlined (using the 'dissolve' process) to retain only the relevant attribute information. This was then used to calculate the area of the region falling into each category to begin to inform the quantitative scenario planning work within the SEA.

### Quantifying woodland expansion

**B.11** A key aspect of the SEA involved attempting to understand the potential effects of various approaches to delivering woodland expansion, ranging from a relatively low-level model (based on current trends) to more significant models based on the (then) Ce

**B.12**

**B.13**

**B.14** ntral Scotland Green Network or Scotland's Forestry Strategy targets.

**B.15** In common with the broadly landscape-driven approach adopted in the Strategy, the indicative map was subdivided by the landscape zones to provide a breakdown of the amount of preferred, potential, sensitive etc. land available in each zone.

**B.16** This information formed the basis of the 'scenario planning' exercise undertaken as part of the SEA, determining the broad effects of attempting to meet various targets. For further information, see the Environmental Report.

### Mapping woodland types

**B.17** The Right Tree in the Right Place also states that, in addition to the land categorisation maps, authorities '*should also identify how the categories apply to different woodland types*' suggesting that the four main types of woodland identified in the Scottish Government Rationale for Woodland Expansion could be used. They are:

- Native woodlands;

- Mixed woodlands;
- Softwood forests;
- Energy forests; and,
- Urban woodlands.

The maps for each woodland type were developed using the indicative potential dataset as their basis, to ensure that key sensitivities were respected in each instance.



## Appendix C

### Interpreting the maps

#### Interpreting the maps

**C.1** This section of the FWS provides a brief overview of what the detailed maps in accompanying the spatial guidance depict, and what this means for woodland management and expansion 'on the ground'.

#### Land Categorisation

**C.2** Figure 5.1 depicts the broad potential of the region's environment to accommodate new woodland of all types.

**Table C.1: Interpreting the IFS map**

| Key        | Interpretation  |
|------------|---|
| Built-up   | Local Development Plan Settlements: opportunities for trees and woodland generally too small to be mapped at a strategic scale  |
| Existing   | Existing woodland of all types (derived from SF National Forest Inventory)  |
| Preferred  | Land with no strategic constraint to woodland expansion. Detailed assessment may reveal site-specific issues  |
| Potential  | Land with at least one strategic constraint to new woodland, but with some flexibility to accommodate expansion where this responds appropriately to local conditions |
| Sensitive  | Land with significant constraints to woodland expansion. The type and scale of acceptable new woodland is likely to be very limited                                   |
| Unsuitable | Land physically unsuitable for the growth and management of trees   |

#### Softwood

**C.3** Figure 5.2 depicts areas of land currently managed for softwood timber production and the 'preferred' areas where new planting for timber production could be accommodated,

subject to site-specific constraints and relevant design considerations.

**Table C.2: Interpreting the Softwoods map**

| Key                      | Interpretation   |
|--------------------------|--|
| Preferred land           | Land with no strategic constraint to woodland expansion (source: IFS dataset - Preferred). Detailed assessment may reveal site-specific issues         |
| Existing softwood forest | Existing planted softwood forests; may be approaching or at maturity – opportunities for restructuring (source: National Forestry Inventory – Conifer) |
| Recently-established     | Areas recently planted; woodland likely to be in place for at least 20 years (source: NFI – Young Trees)   |

| Key          | Interpretation  |
|--------------|---|
| Felled       | Areas of softwood forest recently felled; likely to be restocked (source: NFI- Felled)                    |
| New planting | Area recently converted from some other land use to woodland (source: NFI – Ground Prepared for Planting) |

## Energy

**C.4** Figure 4.3 depicts the existing producers of biomass products, potential larger-scale producers of waste wood products that could be used in energy generation – and also potential users of biomass heat and power.

**Table C.3: Interpreting the Energy Woodlands map**

| Key  | Interpretation  |
|--|---|
| Managing existing woodland                                     | Woodland of all types that could contribute to the supply of material for biomass, either as a result of planned management operations or through bringing woodland into positive management (source: IFS dataset – Existing woodland)  |
| Contributing to temporary greening of vacant and derelict land | Land identified as either vacant or derelict could support planting and management of woodland to contribute to biomass supply (source: LDP land allocations – vacant and derelict land)  |
| Managing and expanding of farm woodlands                       | Areas of better quality agricultural land where the principal contribution to biomass will be through management and smaller-scale expansion of farm woodland (source: Land Capability for Agriculture classes $\geq 3.2$ and $\leq 4.1$ )  |
| Wider range of opportunities                                   | Land of lower agricultural capability that offers greater flexibility to accommodate new woodland to contribute to biomass supply, including short rotation forestry and coppice where site-specific constraints allow (source: Land Capability for Agriculture classes $> 4.1$ and $< 7$ ) |
| Built-up area  | Cities, towns and villages likely to sustain facilities that could make use of biomass, principally for heating (e.g. schools, hospitals and other public buildings) (source: IFS dataset – Built-up)   |

## Mixed

**C.5** Figure 4.4 depicts the areas in which establishing new mixed woodland has the potential to contribute to a range of objectives including rural diversification, enhancing cultural heritage and supporting resilience to climate change.

**Table C.4: Interpreting the Mixed Woodlands map**

| Key   | Interpretation   |
|---|--|
| Supporting agriculture on prime land                              | Prime quality agricultural land (Class 1-3.1): identified as 'sensitive' in the land classification. Appropriate woodland expansion in these areas will focus on providing shelter for crops and livestock, reducing erosion and contributing to management of diffuse pollution. It will generally be small scale and focused on native broadleaves (source: Land Capability for Agriculture Classes 1, 2, 3.1) |
| Supporting resilience and diversification                         | Agricultural land in a wider range of uses where woodland could support existing practice, or contribute to farm diversification (source: Land Capability for Agriculture classes $\geq 3.2$ and $\leq 4.1$ )  |
| Wider range of opportunities                                      | Land of lower capability where the potential for new woodland with both broadleaved and conifer components could contribute to landscape character, climate change objectives and provision of high quality timber (source: Land Capability for Agriculture classes $> 4.1$ and $< 7$ )  |
| Conserving and enhancing historic gardens and designed landscapes | Gardens and designed landscapes with a significant woodland element (source: Historic Landscape Assessment – Designed landscapes, Inventory-listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and local gardens and designed landscapes)   |

| Key                               | Interpretation   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Supporting development priorities | Land allocated as housing or industry in current and emerging Local Development Plans that could incorporate mixed woodland (source: LDP land allocations – housing, industry) |

## Native

**C.6** Figure 4.5 depicts the areas in which planting of new native woodland can deliver the widest range of benefits.

**Table C.5: Interpreting the Native Woodlands map**

| Key  | Interpretation   |
|--|--|
| Native woodland  | Woodland where canopy cover is composed mainly (>50%) of native species (source: Native Woodland Survey of Scotland –native woodland)  |
| Nearly-native woodland                                   | Woodland where canopy cover is composed of between 40% and 50% native species. These are woodlands that could have the potential to be converted into native woodland by gradual alteration of species mix (source: Native Woodland Survey of Scotland – nearly native woodland)   |
| Plantations in Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)             | Planted woodlands identified as being in locations with 'natural' woodland cover prior to the mid-19th century. Subject to detailed site assessment, these areas could have the potential for restoration to native woodland (source: Native Woodland Survey of Scotland – PAWS)   |
| Search area for new riparian woodland                    | Areas adjacent to watercourses where new planting could contribute to networks of riparian woodland habitat. Detailed site assessment is required to understand the potential interactions with flooding and existing habitats. Described as an area of search to reinforce the idea that not all areas will be suitable and may require detailed analysis and assessment (Source: Fluvial Flood Risk dataset with buffer) |
| Opportunities to contribute to woodland habitat networks | Areas within the 'moderate' and 'high' dispersal network; areas identified by the SNH Integrated Habitat Network model (for broadleaved and yew woodland). This is land in which native woodland expansion could contribute to wider habitat connectivity, supporting resilience to climate change (source: INH Woodland Network)  |
| Other woodland   | Areas of woodland not classed as native (IFS dataset – Existing)   |
| Built-up area  | LDP settlements (source: IFS dataset – Built-up)   |

## Urban

**C.7** Figure 4.6 depicts the potential for new woodland in urban environments.

**Table C.6: Interpreting the Urban Woodlands Map**

| Key  | Interpretation   |
|--|--|
| Contributing to the setting of new housing developments  | Land allocated for housing in current and emerging development plans (source: LDP land allocations – housing)  |
| Managing existing woodland                               | Existing woodland in urban areas (source: IFS dataset – Existing woodland)   |
| Opportunities to contribute to woodland habitat networks | Areas within the 'moderate' and 'high' dispersal network; areas identified by the SNH Integrated Habitat Network model (for broadleaved and yew woodland). This is land in which woodland expansion could contribute to wider habitat connectivity, supporting resilience to climate change (source: INH Woodland Network) |
| Contributing to enhanced greenspaces                     | Greenspaces identified in the Greenspace Scotland Map whose primary use is amenity (business, transport, residential), other functional greenspaces, public parks and gardens, and riparian routes (source: Greenspace Scotland dataset)   |

| Key  | Interpretation   |
|--|--|
| Contributing to temporary greening of vacant and derelict land | Land identified as either vacant or derelict could support planting and management of woodland to contribute to biomass supply (source: LDP land allocations – vacant and derelict land) |



## Appendix D

### Information required for forestry applications

#### Forestry Grant Scheme

**D.1** Woodland Creation Guidance (June 2019) identifies target areas which are eligible for higher rates for initial planting and annual maintenance payments. This includes areas identified as being preferred or potential in the relevant Local Authority Woodland Strategy (or equivalent).

**D.2** The higher payment rates will apply to woodland creation options for conifers, diverse conifers and broadleaves.

**D.3** The Guidance specifies that planting on deep peats (defined as peat greater than 50 centimetres in depth) is not supported. It also outlines that on sites where it is likely that deep peat may be present an appropriate level of assessment should be carried out to identify its distribution on site.

- all areas of contiguous deep peat over 0.25 hectares should be mapped as unplantable land
- areas smaller than 0.25 hectares (unmappable) should, where practicable, be identified on the ground and care should be taken when preparing the site to ensure these areas are not disturbed and remain unplanted – where these areas represent a small proportion of the planting area (up to 10 per cent), they can be included, within mapped planting areas. However, such peat should not be planted and the stocking densities should be adjusted accordingly to meet the grant requirements
- where the proportion of unmappable deep peat is over 10 per cent of the planting area this will need careful assessment and discussion with Scottish Forestry to determine whether the site is suitable for planting or whether larger areas should be mapped as unplantable.

**D.4** All applications are also assessed against the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines and must comply with the UK Forestry Standard.

#### Environmental Impact Assessments

**D.5** Any afforestation within a 'sensitive area' which includes an area of deep peat soil – defined as organic soil which contains more than 60 per cent of organic matter and exceeds 50 centimetres in thickness - requires an application to the

local conservancy office for an Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinion.

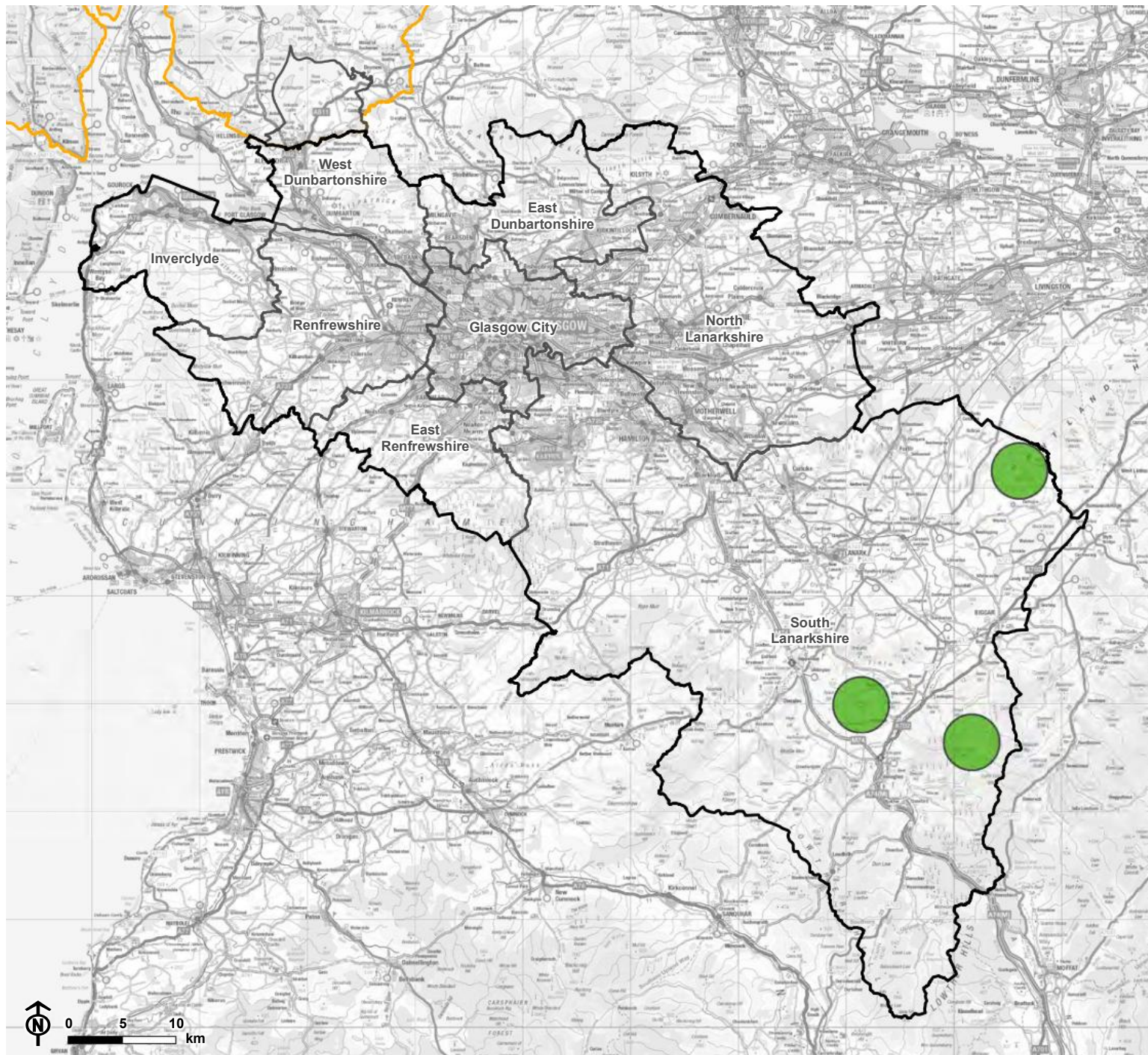
**D.6** A Screening Opinion requires completion of a Scoping Opinion Request Form which records:

**D.7** Details of the forestry project, plus a map of the site boundary;





- Details of the existing land use and the environmental sensitivity of the area that is likely to be affected by the forestry project.
- A description of any likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment
- Details of any consultees or stakeholders that have been contacted to inform the assessment
- Any likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment, and information on the opportunities taken to mitigate these effects.
- Recording if any of the forestry project is within a sensitive area, and the area of the proposal within it.

## **Appendix E**

### **South Scotland Woodland Creation Regional Delivery Indicative Areas**



**Figure E.1: South Scotland Woodland Creation - Regional Delivery: Indicative areas for investigation for woodland expansion**

-  Clydeplan boundary
-  Local Authority boundary
-  Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
-  Indicative areas for investigation for woodland expansion



**Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority**

**To: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority  
Joint Committee**

**On: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Report by  
Stuart Tait, Manager**

**Scottish Planning Policy and Housing Technical Consultation on  
Proposed Policy Amendments Proposed Clydeplan Response**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Joint Committee to consider and approve a response to the Scottish Government's consultation on proposed changes to Scottish Planning Policy in respect of housing policy.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Joint Committee are asked to
- consider the contents of this report; and,
  - agree the response set out in Appendix B to the Scottish Government's consultation on Scottish Planning Policy housing policy amendments.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee may be aware that there have been a number of recent Court of Session and Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeal decisions which impact on the interpretation of housing planning policy as currently set out Scottish Planning Policy (June 2014).
- 3.2 As a result the Scottish Government has brought forward proposed amendments to Scottish Planning Policy (refer Appendix A) in this regard. The consultation closes on 9<sup>th</sup> October.
- 3.3 This report sets out the context for the proposed amendment and a proposed Clydeplan response.

**4. Court of Session Decisions**

- 4.1 Two of the more significant decisions, both impacting the Inverclyde Council area, are the Court of Session decision on a planning application at Carsemeadow, Quarriers Village (June 2020, CSIH 28), and the Court of Session decision on the challenge to the adoption of the Inverclyde Local Development Plan, resulting in the quashing of the entire housing chapter of that plan (July 2020, CSIH 44).

4.2 Both of these decisions were heard in the First Division, Inner House, Court of Session and determined by the Lord President, Lord Carloway and both decisions overturned Reporter's prior decisions and recommendations and were therefore challenges to Scottish Ministers.

4.3 Issues that were considered include:

- the assessment of the quantity of effective housing land;
- the appropriate methodology and calculation of effective 5-year housing land supply;
- the approach to the use of Housing Land Requirements and Housing Supply Targets in the calculation of any shortfalls;
- the correct construction and application of paragraph 33, presumption in favour of sustainable development, of Scottish Planning Policy; and,
- the so called "tilted balance" in favour of development.

## **5. Scottish Planning Policy Proposed Policy Amendment**

5.1 The Scottish Government Planning and Architecture Division have responded to the above referenced Carsemeadow Court of Session decision by bringing forward proposals for interim amendments to Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (refer Appendix A). The main purpose of the proposed amendments is to clarify policy and improve the ease and consistency of its application. The consultation closes on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

5.2 The Scottish Government state at paragraph 7 that:

*"To ensure that our policy is clear and can be more easily and consistently applied in practice, the Scottish Ministers wish to update and clarify specific parts of the SPP to achieve the following policy objectives:*

- *supporting a plan-led approach to decision-making and maintaining the legal status of the development plan as a basis for decisions in all cases;*
- *removing the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development from the SPP ('the presumption') given that it is considered to have potential for conflict with a plan-led approach and has given rise to significant number of issues it has generated for decision-makers in its application;*
- *providing a clearer basis for decisions on applications for housing on sites that have not been allocated in the local development plan where there is a shortfall in the effective housing land supply;*
- *clarifying what is meant by a 5 year effective housing land supply and in particular preventing sites that are capable of becoming effective being excluded solely on the basis of programming assumptions."*

5.3 The key changes proposed include the following main elements:

- the removal of the use of the presumption in favour of sustainable development in the circumstances where a plan becomes 5 or more years out of date, with amendments to paragraph 33 etc, and strong support for a plan led approach;
- this means that development management decisions are not to disregard the development plan in the circumstances in which it is older than 5 years;
- the acknowledgment that the availability of land is not to be conflated with the relevant, but separate, matter of site programming and build-out rates i.e. land supply is different to the rate at which it is built out;
- In development management decisions and appeals, it is the *Housing Supply Target* that is to be used to calculate any shortfall, not the *Housing Land Requirement* as suggested by the Courts;
- in the calculation of any shortfall, it is an annualised approach using an annualised average of the Housing Supply Target, that is to be used, not the compound approach which takes into account past completions;
- the use of the “tilted balance” is not what the Scottish Government intended in SPP and the policy amendment introduces the term “balanced planning judgment” alongside confirmation of the primacy of a plan led approach;
- clarification of the term Effective Housing Land Supply: The part of the established housing land supply comprising sites that are, or it can be demonstrated that they are capable of being, free of technical constraints including: ownership (i.e. a willing seller), physical constraints, contamination, deficit funding, infrastructure or land use within the period under consideration in normal economic circumstances;
- proposed withdrawal of Section 2 of PAN 2/2010 on Housing Land Audits as aspects of the guidance are out-of-date.

5.4 Whilst there are other matters that could be further clarified, the recommended changes and accompanying reasons for the proposed changes, are considered helpful.

5.5 Heads of Planning Scotland are preparing a supportive response and whilst each local authority is likely to respond, it was also thought useful to submit a Clydeplan response focusing on the strategic implications of the amendments.





## **APPENDIX A**

# **The Scottish Planning Policy and Housing Technical Consultation on Proposed Policy Amendments**

**July 2020**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot



# The Scottish Planning Policy and Housing

## Technical Consultation On Proposed Policy Amendments Overview

1. The Scottish Ministers are consulting on proposed interim changes to the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014) to clarify specific parts of the Scottish Planning Policy that relate to planning for housing.
2. The changes, once finalised, will apply over the interim period ahead of the adoption of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Publication of the draft NPF4 is expected in September 2021. Following consultation and consideration by the Scottish Parliament, SPP will be fully replaced when the final version of NPF4 is published in 2022.

## Why We are Consulting

3. The Scottish Government is committed to a plan-led planning system. This was comprehensively supported by a wide range of stakeholders through the review of the planning system. Development plans form the basis of planning decision making to enable the right developments in the right locations.
4. The context for planning for housing in Scotland has changed significantly in recent months. The pandemic is having an impact on the ability of planning authorities to maintain the review cycle of local development plans within the timeframes they intended. We expect that more development plans will extend beyond five years in the coming months and are keen to support authorities in adapting to the current circumstances. The pandemic is also affecting delivery programmes and the rate of housing completions. This, coupled with revised plan timescales, has implications for the plan-led approach to development.
5. Furthermore, a recent decision by the Court of Session on an appeal by Gladman Developments Ltd raises a number of issues about the current wording of the policy that we now believe require clarification.

## Introduction

6. The Scottish Ministers want the planning system to support the delivery of good quality homes in the right locations. This is of even greater importance now, as it has become even clearer that the quality of our homes can contribute a great deal to our health and wellbeing, and that housing delivery will play a key role in our future economic recovery. However, to achieve housing development in a sustainable way that works with, rather than against, the needs of communities, we need to overcome current conflict in the system, and actively address the lengthy technical debates we are seeing about the numbers of homes that we will need in the future. This will allow us to focus more on how we can strengthen delivery and enable good quality development on the ground.
7. Taking this into account, and to ensure that our policy is clear and can be more easily and consistently applied in practice, the Scottish Ministers wish to update and clarify specific parts of the SPP to achieve the following policy objectives:

- Supporting a plan-led approach to decision-making and maintaining the legal status of the development plan as a basis for decisions in all cases.
- Removing the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development from the SPP ('the presumption') given that it is considered to have potential for conflict with a plan-led approach and has given rise to significant number of issues it has generated for decision-makers in its application.
- Providing a clearer basis for decisions on applications for housing on sites that have not been allocated in the local development plan where there is a shortfall in the effective housing land supply.
- Clarifying what is meant by a 5 year effective housing land supply and in particular preventing sites that are capable of becoming effective being excluded solely on the basis of programming assumptions.

8. This consultation paper sets out proposed policy amendments to achieve these objectives and invites views on them. The relevant policies are set out in paragraphs 28, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 123-125 of the Scottish Planning Policy.

## **Proposed changes**

[Paragraphs 28, 29, 30, 32, 33](#)

9. The Scottish Ministers propose to remove the sentence on page 9 of the SPP that introduces the presumption.
10. The policy principles in paragraphs 28 and 29 will be maintained as they have an important role to play in ensuring the planning system enables the right development in the right place, rather than allowing development at any cost. They provide a range of factors that decision-makers should take into account as material considerations that are part of a balanced planning judgement.
11. The Scottish Ministers are minded to remove the reference to the presumption in paragraph 30, as well as paragraphs 32 and 33 in their entirety. Paragraph 30 of the SPP sets out that development plans should be consistent with the SPP policies – this part of the sentence will be maintained but the remainder of the first bullet will be removed. Paragraph 32 sets out that the presumption will be a material consideration for proposals that do not accord with up-to-date development plans. Paragraph 33 of the SPP sets out that where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date, the presumption will be a significant material consideration.



*Current text:*

## **Policy Principles**

**This SPP introduces a presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development.**

28. The planning system should support economically, environmentally and socially sustainable places by enabling development that balances the costs and benefits of a proposal over the longer term. The aim is to achieve the right development in the right place; it is not to allow development at any cost.

29. This means that policies and decisions should be guided by the following principles:

- giving due weight to net economic benefit;
- responding to economic issues, challenges and opportunities, as outlined in local economic strategies;
- supporting good design and the six qualities of successful places;
- making efficient use of existing capacities of land, buildings and infrastructure including supporting town centre and regeneration priorities;
- supporting delivery of accessible housing, business, retailing and leisure development;
- supporting delivery of infrastructure, for example transport, education, energy, digital and water;
- supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation including taking account of flood risk;
- improving health and well-being by offering opportunities for social interaction and physical activity, including sport and recreation;
- having regard to the principles for sustainable land use set out in the Land Use Strategy;
- protecting, enhancing and promoting access to cultural heritage, including the historic environment;
- protecting, enhancing and promoting access to natural heritage, including green infrastructure, landscape and the wider environment;
- reducing waste, facilitating its management and promoting resource recovery; and
- avoiding over-development, protecting the amenity of new and existing development and considering the implications of development for water, air and soil quality.

## **Delivery**

### **Development Planning**

30. Development plans should:

- be consistent with the policies set out in this SPP, including the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development;

- positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of the plan area in a way which is flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances over time;
- support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area;
- be up-to-date, place-based and enabling with a spatial strategy that is implemented through policies and proposals; and
- set out a spatial strategy which is both sustainable and deliverable, providing confidence to stakeholders that the outcomes can be achieved.

### **Development Management**

32. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision-making. Proposals that accord with up-to-date plans should be considered acceptable in principle and consideration should focus on the detailed matters arising. For proposals that do not accord with up-to-date development plans, the primacy of the plan is maintained and this SPP and the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be material considerations.

33. Where relevant policies in a development plan are out-of-date or the plan does not contain policies relevant to the proposal, then the presumption in favour of development that contributes to sustainable development will be a significant material consideration. Decision-makers should also take into account any adverse impacts which would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against the wider policies in this SPP. The same principle should be applied where a development plan is more than five years old.

#### *Proposed text*

### **Policy Principles**

28. The planning system should support economically, environmentally and socially sustainable places by enabling development that balances the costs and benefits of a proposal over the longer term. The aim is to achieve the right development in the right place; it is not to allow development at any cost.

29. This means that policies and decisions should be guided by the following principles:

- giving due weight to net economic benefit;
- responding to economic issues, challenges and opportunities, as outlined in local economic strategies;
- supporting good design and the six qualities of successful places;
- making efficient use of existing capacities of land, buildings and infrastructure including supporting town centre and regeneration priorities;
- supporting delivery of accessible housing, business, retailing and leisure development;

- supporting delivery of infrastructure, for example transport, education, energy, digital and water;
- supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation including taking account of flood risk;
- improving health and well-being by offering opportunities for social interaction and physical activity, including sport and recreation;
- having regard to the principles for sustainable land use set out in the Land Use Strategy;
- protecting, enhancing and promoting access to cultural heritage, including the historic environment;
- protecting, enhancing and promoting access to natural heritage, including green infrastructure, landscape and the wider environment;
- reducing waste, facilitating its management and promoting resource recovery; and
- avoiding over-development, protecting the amenity of new and existing development and considering the implications of development for water, air and soil quality.

## **Delivery**

### **Development Planning**

30. Development plans should:

- be consistent with the policies set out in this SPP;
- positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of the plan area in a way which is flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances over time;
- support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area;
- be up-to-date, place-based and enabling with a spatial strategy that is implemented through policies and proposals; and
- set out a spatial strategy which is both sustainable and deliverable, providing confidence to stakeholders that the outcomes can be achieved.

### *Reasons for the proposed change:*

- This aspect of the SPP has caused considerable confusion and undermines the transparency of the system.
- We do not consider the Court's interpretation of the current wording of the presumption to be consistent with our policy intention.
- We do not wish to undermine the primacy of the statutory development plan in decision-making.
- The 'tilted balance' is not intended to be a feature of the Scottish planning system that overrides normal planning judgement based on the development plan and other material considerations.

- The reference to relevant policies of plans being ‘out-of-date’ has a range of interpretations, with decision-makers and applicants taking a range of positions on this.
- As a result of current restrictions and to ensure consultation can be properly undertaken, more development plans are likely to exceed five years in age in the coming months. We do not wish this to undermine a plan-led system.

**Question 1: What is your view on our proposal to remove ‘the presumption’ from the SPP, through the changes set out?**

Paragraph 123 and the Glossary

12. Paragraph 123 of the SPP refers to the 5 year effective housing land supply and broadly describes the type of sites that could form part of it. The Scottish Ministers are minded to amend paragraph 123 and the glossary to provide more flexibility within the description of the effective land supply at this time.

*Current text:*

**Maintaining a 5 year effective housing land supply**

123. Planning authorities should actively manage the housing land supply. They should work with housing and infrastructure providers to prepare an annual housing land audit as a tool to critically review and monitor the availability of effective housing land, the progress of sites through the planning process, and housing completions, to ensure a generous supply of land for house building is maintained and there is always enough effective land for at least five years. A site is only considered effective where it can be demonstrated that within five years it will be free of constraints and can be developed for housing. In remoter rural areas and island communities, where the housing land requirement and market activity are of a more limited scale, the housing land audit process may be adapted to suit local circumstances.

Glossary: *Effective housing land supply*: The part of the established housing land supply which is free or expected to be free of development constraints in the period under consideration and will therefore be available for the construction of housing.



*Proposed text:*

### **Maintaining a 5 year effective housing land supply**

123. Planning authorities should actively manage the housing land supply. They should work with housing and infrastructure providers to prepare an annual housing land audit as a tool to critically review and monitor the availability of effective housing land, the progress of sites through the planning process, and housing completions to ensure a generous supply of land for house building is maintained and there is always enough effective land for at least 5 years. The definition of the effective housing land supply is set out in the glossary to this SPP (as amended). **Housing sites should not be excluded from the effective housing land supply solely due to programming assumptions included in the Housing Land Audit.** In remoter rural areas and island communities, where the housing land requirement and market activity are of a more limited scale, the housing land audit process may be adapted to suit local circumstances.

*Glossary: Effective housing land supply:* The part of the established housing land supply **comprising sites that are, or it can be demonstrated that they are capable of being, free of technical constraints including: ownership (i.e. a willing seller), physical constraints, contamination, deficit funding, infrastructure or land use within the period under consideration in normal economic circumstances.**

***Established housing land supply:* The total housing land supply, consisting of sites in the adopted development plan, sites with planning permission for housing development and other sites with potential for housing development.**

### *Reasons for the proposed change:*

- A clear definition of the effective housing land supply is required that takes into account current circumstances.
- In practice the inclusion or exclusion of sites in the effective land supply is a matter of contention.
- Programming reported in Housing Land Audits can vary for a wide range of reasons beyond site availability. Programming assumptions (i.e. the number of units intended to be built-out on a site each year) are frequently subject to change.
- It is currently argued by some that sites that are technically capable of development should not be included in the effective land supply as a result of programming decisions unrelated to the planning status of a site.
- We are currently experiencing exceptional market circumstances and expect this to continue for some time. As a result, we do not wish to see the availability of land conflated with the relevant, but separate, matter of site programming and build-out rates. The latter is based on business decisions related to changes in the market and wider economic circumstances.

- This approach would be broadly consistent with changes we proposed within the draft Housing Delivery Advice that was previously published and widely debated and consulted on but subsequently withdrawn as a result of continuing disagreement between stakeholders.

**Question 2: What is your view on the proposed changes set out and our aim of clarifying the definition of the 5 year effective housing land supply to reflect the currently exceptional market circumstances?**

## Paragraph 125

13. Paragraph 125 of the SPP states that where a shortfall in the 5 year effective housing land supply emerges, development plan policies for the supply of housing land will not be considered up-to-date and paragraphs 32-35 will be relevant.
14. The Scottish Ministers propose to revise paragraph 125 to provide a clearer approach for decision-makers in establishing the extent of the 5 year effective housing land supply and taking this into account in decision making.

### *Current text:*

125. Planning authorities, developers, service providers and other partners in housing provision should work together to ensure a continuing supply of effective land and to deliver housing, taking a flexible and realistic approach. Where a shortfall in the 5-year effective housing land supply emerges, development plan policies for the supply of housing land will not be considered up-to-date, and paragraphs 32-35 will be relevant.

### *Proposed text:*

125. Planning authorities, developers, service providers and other partners in housing provision should work together to ensure a continuing supply of effective land and to deliver housing, taking a flexible and realistic approach.

**The extent of the forward 5 year effective land supply should be calculated by dividing the housing supply target set out in the adopted local development plan by the plan period (to identify an annual figure) and multiplying that figure by 5. That should be compared to the 5 year effective land supply, based on information collected as part of the housing land audit process.**

**Where a shortfall in the forward 5 year effective housing land supply has been identified, this will be a relevant material consideration to be taken into account alongside other considerations as part of a balanced planning judgement. Whilst the weight to be afforded to it is a matter for decision makers to determine, recognising the facts and circumstances of each case, the contribution of the proposal to addressing the shortfall (in both scale and kind) should be taken into account to inform this judgement.**

### *Reasons for the proposed change:*

- There are widely varying interpretations of this paragraph and its application in practice, generating confusion and undermining the transparency and operation of the system.
- Ministers are of the view that there is now a need to set out a standard calculation to determine the extent of the 5 year effective land supply.
- Based on previous consultation, we are aware that views on methodologies for calculating the 5 year effective housing land supply vary, and that the two main alternatives include an approach that accounts for previous completions (the residual or compound method), or a calculation based on an averaged rate of delivery over the life of the plan.
- Ministers are of the view that, despite current unprecedented circumstances, authorities should still be implementing the provisions of the development plan for new housing and working with stakeholders to make sure there is an adequate forward supply of effective land to help deliver new housing.
- Taking into account current circumstances and the impact of Covid-19, Ministers are not convinced that the residual approach will produce accurate outputs, particularly at this time where delivery rates are affected by the current pandemic. A calculation based on a more steady, average rate of build-out of the land contained within the development plan is considered more appropriate at this time.
- Ministers consider that the housing supply target (the total number of homes that will be delivered) is the appropriate basis for establishing the scale of the forward 5 year effective housing supply.
- The housing land requirement is a tool that is applied at the development planning stage. Its purpose is to help ensure that the housing supply target is achieved by including in the plan an additional allowance for generosity. It is essentially the Housing Supply Target with the addition of an agreed percentage added. The housing land requirement can be met from a range of sources, including the established land supply, sites which are already allocated, sites with planning permission and windfall sites (subject to evidence). The effective land supply is a subset of this wider land requirement. In many cases the housing land requirement relates to a different period – it may look ahead to the longer term or extend from plan base date, rather than adoption date. As a result, the housing land requirement is not directly applicable when assessing the 5 year effective housing land supply.
- The disputed matter of plans becoming ‘out-of-date’ should be removed for the reasons related to changes in plan timescales, as stated above.
- A shortfall in the housing land supply is relevant, but is not determinative, as part of a wider planning judgement, and Ministers believe this should be expressed more clearly in revised text.
- A shortfall in the supply of effective housing land may be addressed by exceptional releases of unallocated land but only if such proposals are appropriate and will meaningfully address any identified shortfall. The proposed text makes it clear that a shortfall will be a relevant material consideration. Scottish Ministers are of the view that this should now be explicitly referenced in relevant decisions.
- This provides a clearer policy to address cases where there is a shortfall in the land supply.
- Aspects of the existing guidance on this as set out in Planning Advice Note 2/2010 are out-of-date. We therefore propose that Section 2 – Housing Land Audits should be withdrawn.

**Question 3: What is your view on the proposed changes to paragraph 125, including (a) the proposed calculation to establish the scale of the 5 year effective land supply in relation to alternatives and (b) the proposed approach to assessing proposals where a shortfall emerges?**

#### Impacts of the proposed amendments

15. These proposals have been designed to address issues associated with planning for housing. We recognise that paragraphs 28, 29, 30, 32 and 33 have wider application but we do not expect that the proposed amendments will directly affect decisions relating to other types of development to the same extent as housing proposals.

**Question 4: Do you agree that the proposed amendments will not directly impact on other (non-housing) types of development? If not, please provide evidence to support your view.**

16. We have considered the requirements for statutory impact assessments, including by screening the proposals in relation to the criteria for Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment, and Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment. Our view at this stage is that a fuller assessment is not required, given the procedural and technical nature of the proposals.

**Question 5: Do you agree that fuller impact assessments are not required? If not, please provide evidence to support your view.**

#### What happens next

17. Respondents are asked to state their view on the proposed policy revisions by answering the questions set out in this paper, and to provide reasons for their view, supported by evidence where possible. Following the consultation, we will take all responses into account, finalise the policy, and adopt and publish it as an updated version of the Scottish Planning Policy.

18. When the policy is finalised, it is proposed that Section 2, Housing Land Audits, in PAN 2/2010 will be withdrawn. This advice was prepared before SPP (2014) and certain terms have changed in meaning as practice has continued to evolve.



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## APPENDIX B

### **The Scottish Planning Policy and Housing Technical Consultation On Proposed Policy Amendments Overview Proposed Clydeplan Response**

1. Covid 19 has served to highlight the importance of the connections between health and the quality of living environments and this is where our profession's endeavours must be squarely focused. The requirement for an immediate response to the recent Court of Session decision, ([2020] CSIH 28, XA104/19)<sup>1</sup> is understood, however noting that these proposals are "interim" the proposed SPP amendments could and should go further and Clydeplan will continue to engage with the Scottish Government to assist in evolving national planning policy which is to become embedded in NPF4.
2. Clydeplan and its constituent authorities have been dismayed at the increasingly litigious nature of planning disputes relating to housing developments which consume scarce resources that could better be utilised in positively supporting the creation of great places to live. Perceived policy loopholes are skewing some market led behaviours which in turn may be resulting in some poor planning decisions that are not consistent with the intentions of SPP and the plan-led system. Further policy clarifications and simplifications are encouraged and the proposed amendments, which assist in that regard, are therefore strongly supported.
3. Further detailed comments now follow.

#### **Question 1: What is your view on our proposal to remove 'the presumption' from the SPP, through the changes set out?**

4. The proposal to remove 'the presumption' from the SPP as set out, for the reasons provided by Scottish Government, is firmly supported.
5. The proposed amendments should not result in a reduction in approvals of proposals that contribute to sustainable development and add clarity as to how proposals are to be assessed. The vast majority of applications for development are approved and are assessed on the principal policies in SPP on Sustainability and Placemaking, including the economic, environmental and social principles set out at paragraph 29 of SPP, which are reflected within Clydeplan and Local Development Plans.
6. The challenge considered in the recent Court of Session decision, demonstrates that the terms of the presumption in favour of sustainable development where plans are out-of-date, was increasingly being interpreted and used in a manner that generally militates against the primacy of the development plan and decisions based on "balanced planning judgment".
7. Clydeplan was approved by Ministers in July 2017 and will be 5 years old in July 2022. Delays in NPF4 preparation are having knock on delays in the production of a Regional Spatial Strategy however this proposed amendment to SPP will ensure that Clydeplan, and the Local Development Plans of the eight constituent authorities, remain relevant in the determination of planning applications.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/docs/default-source/cos-general-docs/pdf-docs-for-opinions/2020csih28.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

**Question 2: What is your view on the proposed changes set out and our aim of clarifying the definition of the 5 year effective housing land supply to reflect the currently exceptional market circumstances?**

8. The proposal to clarify Paragraph 123 and the glossary definitions of effective and established housing land supply, for the reasons provided by Scottish Government is strongly supported.
9. The circumstances of Covid-19 and dramatic impacts particularly on *market led* housing delivery, have served to throw into focus the distinction between available housing land and the rate at which it is delivered. The term “5 year effective land supply” has often been utilised in a manner that conflates these two separate matters: available land and the rate of its build. This distinction is relevant irrespective of current exceptional circumstances.
10. In the Clydeplan area, the Plan’s strategy to deliver a compact city model, (to re-densify the urban area; to regenerate whilst addressing vacant and derelict land and buildings; and to reduce the need for travel), remains highly relevant post pandemic outbreak, in addressing the climate, health and economic emergencies. There is a very significant land supply including large scale community growth and regeneration areas and a mixture of brownfield and greenfield opportunities, many of which are currently being built out. Whilst the legacy of urban brownfield sites has its challenges, the delivery of these sites and locations will assist in creating a successful sustainable city region and the fact of slower delivery rates, should not be used as grounds for releasing sites in locations that detract from Clydeplan’s strategic aims.
11. What instead must happen, is continued public policy focus on the delivery of difficult locations and on regeneration activities including through City Deal investment. Related to this, it is appropriate to highlight that delivery of public sector led housing, an important part of the delivery solution, is subject to entirely different delivery drivers from market led development which dictate different rates of build. The distinctions and clarifications in the delivery roles between the private and public sectors should therefore be reflected in Policy.
12. Clydeplan would wish to offer to work with Scottish Government in co-producing any new Housing Land Audit Guidance and would encourage priority to be given to the development of the audit on a national digital platform as part of the activities of the Digital Task Force.

**Question 3: What is your view on the proposed changes to paragraph 125, including (a) the proposed calculation to establish the scale of the 5 year effective land supply in relation to alternatives and (b) the proposed approach to assessing proposals where a shortfall emerges?**

13. The proposals to clarify Paragraph 125 and related calculations of land supply, for the reasons provided by Scottish Government are strongly supported.

**Question 3(a)**

14. The different methodologies for the calculation of land supply employed by various stakeholders at Development Plan Examinations, Planning Appeals and in court has consumed scarce resources within planning services and has caused significant debate and confusion, not least of all for the general public. The revisions and suggested methodology for the calculation of a five year effective land supply is largely in line with the Scottish Government and HoPS calculation within the Planning Performance Framework and is considered to be the most straightforward and robust method of calculating a five year effective land supply.

15. The clarification that the **housing land requirement** is to be utilised at the point of LDP preparation and that the **housing supply target** is to be applied in the assessment of planning applications and appeals, is supported and concurs with how these matters are applied in the Clydeplan area.
16. The clarification is supported that the residual or compound method that takes account of completions, should not be used in the calculation of housing land and that an annualised calculation based on a more steady, average rate of build-out of the land contained within the development plan, is to be utilised.

### **Question 3(b)**

17. The proposed approach to assessing proposals where a shortfall in the five year effective land supply emerges, is supported as the approach encourages a “balanced planning judgment” based on the full policy context provided by SPP, Clydeplan and the relevant Local Development Plan.
18. The proposed text of paragraph 125, requires to be amended to reflect that SDPs are still relevant in some local authority areas and in the Clydeplan area until the approval of NPF4, and the suggested wording is as follows with additions underlined in bold:
  - The extent of the forward 5 year effective land supply should be calculated by dividing the housing supply target set out in the adopted local development plan **or approved Strategic Development Plan if relevant**, by the plan period (to identify an annual figure) and multiplying that figure by 5.
19. The specific calculation set out in the annual Planning Performance Frameworks could usefully be set out in policy and the wording of paragraph 125 could be further amended to reflect that approach. Clydeplan is contributing to the Heads of Planning Scotland response to provide the detail and further clarity required.

### **Question 3 - Further Comment**

20. Assuming that these proposals gain ministerial approval, the implications of the proposed Policy changes require to be interpreted for the relevant Clydeplan schedules on Housing Land Supply Targets and Requirements, and given the ministerial approval of the Strategic Development Plan for this area, Clydeplan wishes to work with the Scottish Government in this activity, to provide the clarity being sought.
21. Finally, Clydeplan would wish to emphasise support for these proposals which aim to reduce time and energy spent on debating numbers to enable more focus on the creation of high quality, healthy and sustainable places.



**Question 4: Do you agree that the proposed amendments will not directly impact on other (non-housing) types of development? If not, please provide evidence to support your view.**

22. Clydeplan are satisfied that the proposed amendments will not directly impact on other types of development and reiterate the point made earlier that national statistics confirm that the vast majority of applications for development are approved based on the principal policies in SPP on Sustainability and Placemaking, including the economic, environmental and social principles set out at paragraph 29, as reflected within Clydeplan and the Local Development Plans of the eight authorities.

**Question 5: Do you agree that fuller impact assessments are not required? If not, please provide evidence to support your view.**

23. Clydeplan agree with the Scottish Government that there is no need for further impact assessments as the changes to SPP are not significant enough to trigger further assessments or alter the original impacts assessments undertaken on SPP which was published in 2014.