Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

Newcastleton & District Community Trust Management Plan

2023 to 2033

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Management Plan

Please refer to the Management Plan Guidance note for advice on how to complete your management plan. This template does not include a section for thinning permission.

You must have an approved Management Plan before you can apply for Forestry Grant Scheme funding.

1. Details

Management Plan Details			
Management Plan Name:	Newcastleton & District Community Trust Management Plan 2023 to 2033		
Business Reference Number:	317579	Main Location Code:	92/769/0179
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NY 478 873	Nearest town or locality:	Newcastleton
Local Authority:		Scottish Borders	
Management Plan area (hectares):		24 ha	

Owner's Details				
Title:	Mrs	Forename:	Barbara	
Surname:	Elborn			
Organisation:	Newcastleton District Community Trust (NDCT)	Position:	Secretary	
Primary Contact Number:	07989 968 756	Alternative Contact Number:		
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Address:	Buccleuch House, South Hermitage Street, Newcastleton			
Postcode:	TD9 0QE	Country:	Scotland	

Agent's Details				
Title:	Mr	Forename:	John	
Surname:	Mulgrew			
Organisation:	JDM Woodland Management Ltd	Position:	Director	
Primary Contact Number:	07960 034732	Alternative Contact Number:	07917 697965	
Email:	Jdmwoodlandmanagement@hotmail.com			
Address:	JDM Woodland Management Ltd, Milnab House, Milnab Terrace, Crieff			

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Management Plan

Postcode:	PH7 4ED	Country:	Scotland

Access Consent		
You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application.		
Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your property?	☒ YES	☐ NO

Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:			
Management Plan Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

2. Woodland Description

Give information about the following:

- past management of the woodland
- current species and ages
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interests)
- existing or potential public access
- woodland protection

Use the Land Information Search to help you complete this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: forestry.gov.scot

2.1 Maps required

Provide maps to support your plan, as outlined in the guidance note. Please list all of the maps that you are including with your management plan.

List of maps:
Map 1 – NDCT Ownership Map
Map 2 – NDCT Woodland Extent
Map 3 – NDCT Woodland Species map 1 of 2
Map 4 – NDCT Woodland Species map 2 of 2
Map 5 – NDCT Future management 1 of 2
Map 6 – NDCT Future management 2 of 2
Map 7 – NDCT Restock map with alternative planting area
Map 8 – NDCT Alternative planting site (Coulter sike)
Map 9 – NDCT New Woodland Creation (Coulter sike)
Map 10 – NDCT Indicative New Woodland Creation (Short sike)

2.2 History of management

These woodlands were previously covered by the 2014-24 Liddesdale FP (contract 4165341).

Four blocks within the Management Plan area have been harvested and restocked since 2010:

- Compt 1001A, 0.45 ha felled and restocked with native broadleaves (NBL) in 2016.
- Compts 1002B and E, 2.98 ha selective fell (larch removed) and restocked with NBL in 2011.
- Compts 1003A and B, felled and restocked with Sitka spruce/Norway spruce 70/30, 1.26 ha and NBL, 0.41 ha in 2013.
- Compts 1003C and D, felled and restocked with NBL, 3.11 ha in 2021.

Two blocks windblown during storm Arwen in Nov 2021 have been cleared but not restocked:

- Compt 1003H, 6.39ha, mostly windthrown, felled 2022.*
- Compts 1003H and K, windthrown, cleared in 2022.*

*Both Compts 1003H and 1003K have been proposed for re-locating to a new Alternative planting site adjacent to the new Woodland Creation proposals at 'Coulter sike' see additional plans provided.

Newcastleton District Community Trust (NDCT) purchased the land in 2021 which overall extends to approx. 250ha and includes a mixture of open hill ground, woodland and lower lying fields, with a predominately easterly aspect.

The highest point is at 276m slightly west of the Black Grain and Buckbean Sike watercourses on the Newcastleton to Langholm C26 road, the boundary follows the road in a north easterly direction until the Black burn, here it drops down into the village and includes a few smaller fields along the Liddel water before heading back south along the B6357, the lowest point is approx. 100m asl.

Currently of the 250ha approx. 24ha is existing woodlands made up of mostly conifer plantations and some older mixed woodlands above the railway line.

The conifer plantations were planted in the early 70's and 90's and are made up of largely Sitka spruce with smaller elements of larch, Norway spruce and Scots pine, the older remnants of woodland on the slopes above the railway line are from the turn of the last century and contain some very good examples of large broadleaf and conifers that include oaks, beech, ash, sycamore alongside Scots pine and Norway spruce, with other notable key species present.

The previous management plan (Liddesdale) was structured to fell and replant the conifer plantations with similar species whilst taking the opportunity to increase the native broadleaf cover and secure strongholds for red squirrels by planting Norway spruce and Scots pine to link suitable habitats.

The restructuring of the blocks through felling and restocking of smallscale areas has been ongoing since around 2010 however, much of the upper Boosie Plantation conifer areas suffered badly from windblow in the storms of 2021 (storm Arwen) and as a result have been cleared up with no further action taken.

The NDCT Management Plan is largely about taking a fresh look at the composition of the woodlands around the village and looking for opportunities that work alongside other community projects that are designed to bring improvements for the area. This combines a range of objectives that are targeted to influence and improve social needs, tourism, recreation, jobs, flood alleviation and bring new income streams to the community amongst other goals.

The remaining plantation woodlands will continue to be felled and replaced with either native woodland or species suitable for providing improved habitat for red squirrels, some areas of windblow that have already been clearfelled will be looked at to provide other important objectives deemed essential for the community's needs.

Two New Woodland Creation (WC) areas have been identified to help deliver some of the NDCT objectives (Coulter sike and Short sike), which will increase the overall woodland area

significantly. The new sites will create a mosaic of diverse mixed woodlands which have very different goals.

The Short sike site will be largely about creating a woodland to help relieve flood potential by slowing down the flow of surface water coming off of Park hill and increasing the holding capacity of the site, through aerating the soil combined with greater uptake as the trees mature. Conversely the new woodlands for Coulter sike will be about providing a varied and sustainable timber supply with improved recreational opportunities and over time creating a very diverse landscape into the future.

Additional to this, more native woodland habitats will be planted at Coulter sike to replace the windblown area at Boosie Plantation, this alternative planting site will act as a compensatory planting area.

Surveying of the sites has already began and it is estimated that the combined total woodland area will increase to around 85 ha.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the woodlands are managed with a strategic approach that integrates with the other land uses and needs within the Trusts ownership whilst also recognising and conserving their historical and conservation importance.

Within the plan area there are very limited signs of natural regeneration mostly constrained to disturbed patches where human activity is common or roe deer and rabbits are inactive.

Compts 1002A, B, C, D, and F are designated Native Woodland in the NWSS.

2.3 Species and age

Species by Area (ha)

P Year

Row Labels	Sum of Net Area
MB	**8.29**
1888	0.04
1909	0.82
1973	0.16
1997	0.43
2011	3.00
2013	0.41
2016	0.46
2021	2.97
NS	**0.72**
1973	0.34
2013	0.38
OG	**8.16**
0	8.16
SP	**1.02**
1909	0.82
1937	0.04
1973	0.16
SS	**5.78**
1973	0.20
1990	2.10

1991	2.59
2013	0.89
Grand Total	**23.97**

2.4 Constraints and designations

There are no Statutory designations within the management plan area. The closest designated sites are the Langholm - Newcastleton Hills SPA and SSSI c.1 km to the northwest:

- The **Langholm-Newcastleton Hills SPA** qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting a breeding population of European importance of the Annex 1 species hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*.
- Notified features of the **Langholm - Newcastleton Hills SSSI** are Geological (Igneous petrology: Carboniferous-Permian Igneous) and Biological, with an important assemblage of upland habitats and a diverse population of breeding moorland birds, which may include black and red grouse, as well as nine species of wader and six raptor species, including hen harrier.

The boundary of the **Copshaw Holm Local Biodiversity Site**, a non-statutory Scottish Borders Council designation, is adjacent to some of the Management Plan woodlands. The main features of the LBS are open habitats, primarily comprised of heathland, grassland, cleughs and mire with small base-flushed

areas and rare orchids.

2.5 Public access

The Newcastleton area has a large number of rights of way, Core paths and promoted paths. Due to close proximity to the village, the woodlands are well used by the public.

trails (from NCDT GPS files), Informal walks, new routes are to be created within both of the new WC sites

2.6 Woodland Protection

Plant Health (including tree health and invasive or noxious plants)

The woodland is within a Scottish Forestry *Phytophthora ramorum* 'Risk Reduction Zone'. No Phytophthora ramorum has been identified in any of the larch, most of which were removed between 2010 and 2015.

Chalara dieback is present in ash regeneration in various parts of the woodlands Where the potential for public safety may be at risk due to diseased or dangerous trees these will be felled or made safe, particularly where close to walking routes.

Rhododendron is present in the woods behind the Lidalia caravan park.

Deer, Livestock and other mammals

The existing woodlands are protected from livestock by stock fencing. As roe deer are present in the local area, recently planted broadleaved trees are protected within shelters due to the costs associated with deer fencing and that the areas and numbers of trees are small.

Due to proximity to the village and the influence of human disturbance, deer, rabbit and brown hare numbers are relatively low.

New WC planting using productive broadleaf species will be deer fenced against roe deer and clad with rabbit net to protect from both rabbits and hares. Similarly, to achieve the

desired outcome of flood alleviation in a more rapid establishment phase, the riparian plantings at Short sike (WC) will also be deer fenced to protect the trees from roe deer, rabbits and hares. Within the other planting areas deer and rabbit/hare numbers will be managed through regular damage assessments and excessive damage to trees will require culling/control of deer/rabbit/hare numbers to acceptable levels that can achieve the desired stocking densities and tree form.

Other smaller planted areas that are more cost effective to protect without the need for fencing will instead have individual tree tubes (0.6m & 1.2m) to provide appropriate protection and as above will be monitored for damage and necessary action applied.

Designed open space within the designed schemes will assist with deer control acting as natural deer lawns.

Records of red fox earths and potential for bat roosts in mature broadleaved trees have been noted in the Boosie Plantation by NDCT.

No setts or signs of badger have been noted in the woodlands although they are likely to be present in the wider locality.

According to NBN Atlas and local residents, red squirrels are present within Management Plan woodlands, with records from as recent as 2022.

Otter have not been recorded within the woodlands although records exist within 1 km of Newcastleton. It is highly likely that otter will utilise the Liddel Water and its tributaries.

Water vole have been recorded in a drain to the east of the Boosie plantation at NY480874 (one unconfirmed record from 2003). There are no records within the last 20 years. Confirmed records of American mink have been recorded around Newcastleton between 2009 and 2018 (National Water Vole Database & Mapping Project).

Grey Squirrels

Grey squirrels are present in the local area and are currently trapped by volunteers under the guidance of SWT to protect the resident red squirrels. The woodlands are within the 'FGS Grey Squirrel Control Area'. There is no evidence of bark stripping on trees.

Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc.)

Three named watercourses transect the woodlands (Restock Map 7): Short Sike, Charlie's Sike and Coulter Sike. Although not evident from the OS map it is presumed that these are directly hydrologically connected to the Liddel Water. There are also numerous small burns and ditches flowing through the woodlands.

Future Harvesting

All remaining conifer areas within the original MP will be felled and extracted with best practice as a minimum to protect water quality and reduce diffuse pollution through good use of brash matts, installation of nets/straw bales etc and planned systems of works set up with the harvesting company prior to operations commencing.

Ground Preparation

A combination of hinge, inverted and enviro mounding are proposed for the new WC sites and aim to provide the most sensitive cultivation to each site, the benefits of using excavators for Short sike will help to not only provide the most appropriate low impact mounding but also to block existing drains and create new leaky dams to slow and spread the movement of surface water.

To achieve more targeted stocking densities and a lighter touch an enviro mounder will be favoured at Coulter sike in combination with an excavator to provide the range of stocking requirements.

No new drains are considered to be required for either site however, to alleviate the current position at Short sike where a large amount of existing drains were installed many decades ago it may be worth investigating the potential for adding an intercepting (cut off) drain higher up above the site and reducing the in flow to the Short sike basin.

All cultivation and associated works will be managed through best practice guidance and available information.

Due to the wider range of particularly broadleaf species designed into the site which are likely to reduce the risk of acidification and improve the soil conditions for these areas, then any current concerns around acidification will be limited to pure conifer areas.

The proposed management changes to the plan area will bring much improved site conditions for all current and new woodland sites, by removing much of the conifers from steeper (unstable) sites and replacing with native lower density (largely) broadleaf species. This will remove the need for future felling activities on these slopes and create a more natural balanced woodland with less risk of soil erosion and diffuse polution.

The Boosie Plantation will in time be altered significantly from a predominately conifer dominated site to a new broadleaf site that will improve and address the current litter input for the catchment.

Environment (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc.)

Flooding

Newcastleton is within a PVA 'Potentially Vulnerable Area' for flooding and is predominantly at risk from river flooding from the Liddel Water (93%) with a smaller risk from surface water flooding (7%). The village has suffered three major floods in recent years, in February 1997, January 2001 and October 2005. The 2005 flood was reported by local residents as the worst in living memory and caused damage to 30 houses, equal to approximately 10% of residential properties. Both residential and non-residential properties are at risk of flooding, with flooding to the north and south of the village potentially impacting upon the B6357 and areas of agricultural land.

Within the Newcastleton PVA it is estimated that climate change will increase the number of residential properties at risk of flooding from approximately 140 to 370 and the number of non-residential properties from approximately 10 to 40.

To date, flooding has not affected woodland growth.

The planned Short sike WC site has been brought about due to the concerns within the Community from the impact of future flooding and what measures are available to try to reduce the impact in the future. The initial concept design of the site will aim to block the extensive existing drain network (probably installed many decades ago to drain the site quicker and provide better grazing conditions) and thus slow down and spread the surface water across a wider area. Also by planting a range of tolerant broadleaf riparian wet woodland species such as alders, willows and birches etc as the trees grow they will absorb more water and allow a better filtration of the water table through the soil through the effects of trees roots increasing soil porosity. Other measures such as by building a series of small leaky dams along the main channels should also help to slow the water down.

Wind damage

The older mature spruce stands are now at a height where they pose a higher risk of windthrow having never been thinned or managed to deal with such severe events, the younger spruce on Boosie Plantation (planted 1990-1995) was largely blown down in storm Arwen (Nov 2021), which on this occasion came from the north against the prevailing wind that comes from the south west. There are still a couple of conifer areas within the Boosie Plantation that will be felled in the next year or two to complete this work.

As part of the future restructuring, the remainder of the mature commercial crop (Pollach plantation) will be harvested in the 2nd phase (2027-32).

Fire

Despite the proximity to the village, risk from wildfire is low due to species and climate.

Invasive species

There are no problem areas of invasive plant species although rhododendron will be managed in the woods next to the caravan park.

Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

Restock and new planting species will be chosen that are suitable for present and future climate scenarios, by varying the layout of the planting area with many species of both broadleaves and conifers, and planting using combinations of pure and intimate mixtures the impact from disease will be much reduced and similarly tolerance to climatic shifts will be wider. Where appropriate, plants with a local provenance will be preferred and sought, if this is not possible the closest suitable sites will be targeted.

Existing broadleaved trees and some large conifers (Norway spruce and scots pine) will be retained where risk assessment allows. This will help maintain diversity in age classes of the woods.

3. Vision and Objectives

Tell us how you intend to manage the woodland in the long term and your goals for its development.

3.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

NDCT has created a set of vision/principles which feel fit their role as community land custodians but still provide for commercial gain for current and future environments. It will take time to deliver this vision, but these principles will be considered in their implementation and will continually be refined over time. NDCT recognise that climate change is progressing, and plans will need to be reviewed regularly to ensure that the community woodlands can thrive over the duration of their lifetime:

NDCT new woodlands vision

As custodians of the Newcastleton Community Woodlands, NDCT will employ the following objectives in designing and managing new and existing woodland creation schemes. In essence they wish for each location to provide community and environmental benefit throughout its lifetime by adopting the following principles, where appropriate, to each site.

For each woodland to be accepted and valued by the community who will be consulted throughout the planning, delivery, and management of its lifetime.

1. Quality and location of potential woodlands will be considered to ensure potential is maximised.
2. Grade of land and soil types will be fully investigated to determine appropriate species to provide a range of diverse planting appropriate to location / soil types
3. Open access – avoid deer fencing, if possible, consider using other methods of deer management.
4. Consider and take account of changing risks, such and windthrow and new infrastructure such as masts.
5. Inclusion of open spaces to support wildfire prevention.
6. Provide natural habitats, encouraging new and vibrant eco systems to flourish.
7. Recognising and respecting the cultural and valued viewpoints in the landscape.
8. Ensuring that line of sight is not impacted by future growth of woodlands allowing the remote rural premises to access 4G technology.
9. Take account of any existing management plan information for neighbouring woodland areas to determine cumulative impact.
10. Consider existing water courses and use predictive tools to ensure necessary steps are adopted to mitigate flood risk.

The southern end of the woodland holding is predominantly spruce of between 31 and 48 years old. Planted on the east-facing bank next to the B6357, it dominates the view west. The vision for the woodland is to initially remove the current even aged spruce plantations when considered appropriate, that will aim to avoid future windblow risk and restock much of the clearfelled areas with native broadleaf species and some soft conifers. This will over time help to link native woodland habitat that provide a more bio-diverse structure that fits well with the community objectives.

Income from timber sales will be used to fund the restructuring.

Existing mature woodland areas will be developed to encourage visitors with expanded footpaths.
Where beneficial existing native woodland on the hill ground adjoining the woodland blocks may be brought into management.

New Woodland Creation (NWC)
An area of hill ground to the west of the village (Coulter sike) has been identified as a potential new woodland creation site. The layout of the planting plan has been silviculturally designed with a wide range of both conifer and broadleaf species that will add colour to the landscape and provide an economic return to help fund future projects. Alongside the NWC an alternative planting area to replace the windblown spruce at Boosie plantation has been included, this will be largely about increasing the native woodland cover with a wide range of tree species most suited for the site conditions.

In addition, a native planting scheme is being considered to the south of the golf course (Short sike) this will be prepared to work towards reducing surface water flow and act as flood mitigation from the slopes above the village.

Compt 1003A (NS/SS, P 2013, 1.26 ha) will be thinned to favour NS and create a more open and inviting woodland.

Woodlands next to the B6357 and the disused railway to the west of the village will have footpaths created and developed to promote community use. These will be linked to longer paths where appropriate.

3.2 Management objectives

Give your objectives of management and also how you will manage the woodland sustainably. Your objectives should be specific and you should also be able to measure their outcomes.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	To create and manage diverse, visually attractive woodlands, encouraging the local community and visitors to use well-designed paths and tracks, supporting the local Active Leisure Strategy.
2	To increase the proportion of native woodland, establishing an integrated habitat network on site and creating high-quality habitat for wildlife and priority species, contributing towards Scotland's woodland creation and carbon emissions targets.
3	To enhance the landscape by designing and managing woodlands appropriate to the location. Views onto the site will be enhanced by a diverse, colourful broadleaf and conifer woodland with a range of tree species and ages, with future structural diversity provided by CCF (Continuous Cover Forestry).
4	Timber and income from new woodland creation will provide an economic return, which will benefit the local community through increased investment in recreation provision, opportunities for increased tourism and local employment.
5	To contribute towards flood prevention in Newcastleton through targeted planting of new woodlands along riparian zones and the installation of leaky dams in watercourses.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

This may be required depending on the work you intend on carrying out in the woodland and the constraints or designations that have been identified.

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Newcastleton residents consulted by open drop-in event	2,3 & 4/3/2023	2,3 & 4/3/2023	Residents would like to see an element of conifer in the Boosie Plantation restock to support red squirrels. Feedback was 'can more be made of the forested land so	Include NS and SP in NBL restock at about 15%. Plans now include new active leisure facilities – connected

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
			the community would benefit and make it more accessible'.	walking trails and cycle tracks.
SEPA	8/11/2023	22/11/2023	No issues. John Gorman very supportive.	n/a
NatureScot	8/11/2023	14/11/2023	No issues.	n/a
Scottish Borders Council Archaeology	8/11/2023			
Scottish Borders Council Biodiversity	8/11/2023			
Scottish Borders Council Roads	8/11/2023			
Scottish Borders Council Landscape	8/11/2023			
RSPB	8/11/2023	9/11/2023	Ensure low-density, small-leaved native broadleaves on northern boundary to benefit black grouse.	This area will consist of native woodland planted at low density, which should benefit black grouse on a site that doesn't offer very much at present.
Scottish Water	8/11/2023			
Historic Environment Scotland	8/11/2023	29/11/2023	No issues	n/a
Newcastleton Community Council	24/11/2023	1/12/2023	On agenda for next meeting	
Buccleuch Estates	24/11/2023			
Hospital Cottages x 3	24/11/2023			
Blackburn Farm, Newcastleton	24/11/2023			

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
Mrs B Scott. Pathhead, Newcastleton	24/11/2023			
Mr S Adamson, Dykehead, Newcastleton	24/11/2023			
Natasha and Chris Ruddock Tenants (current tenants)		1/12/2023	Concerns regarding visual impact to village and economic impact of woodland creation within the 'bullring'.	
Andrew Sheridan, Treestory	20/11/2023	23/11/2023	Need to discuss any potential fence lines on adjoining land.	
Stephen Adlard, Stephen Adlard Woodlands	20/11/2023			
Ed Downs, EJD Forestry	20/11/2023	By phone 3/1/2023	No issues.	n/a

5. Analysis and Management Strategy

Analyse the information from the previous sections and identify how to make best use of your woodland and its resources to achieve your objectives.

5.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Using the table below analyse any issues raised or relevant features within your woodland and record the constraints and opportunities.

Feature/Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Soils	Also see below the impact and subsequent harvesting/extraction of the windblow has created a very disturbed site with increased risks of erosion and diffuse pollution	A more detailed soil survey/assessment provides a more considered restructuring programme that targets cultivation techniques and species choice to more appropriate site types that will not only maximise future timber yields but reduce the risks from extreme weather events
Windthrow	Windthrow can affect more exposed sites.	Design the layout of the next generation of crops to favour susceptible species to the less exposed slopes and where possible create buffers to deflect and soften the effect of the wind. Similarly target the more windfirm

		species to the deeper soils, plant in mixtures that promote more light and less dependency upon their neighbours to provide a more stable crop. Cultivate the site with a combination of hinge and inverted mounding techniques which will promote 360 root development for a more stable crop and avoid installing new drains. Carry out regular thinning on suitable crops at the right intensity to improve stand stability. Careful selection of stands for selective felling based on age, exposure and tree form.
Climate change	Risk of drought and more extreme weather events, particularly flooding. Increased risk of fire.	Species choice, by planting a wider range of suitable trees species chosen because they fit more accurately to the optimum site conditions and soil types then the risk of drought should be reduced. As mentioned previously with improved mounding techniques and targeted species choice then root structure and spread would improve the trees stability through aerating the soil and breaking up compacted layers and pans to reach more moisture deeper in the ground, if the trees are under less stress they should also be more resilient to disease. For fire suppression the variable undergrowth conditions created by irregular leaf litter which for the bulk of the conifer areas reduce fire risk and suppress vegetation that would potentially act as fuel.
Archaeological and Cultural remains	A number of historic environment features have been identified within the woodland boundaries. Some features may not yet be recorded.	Use of the existing data from field survey and reference to the Canmore website map has been applied when planning forest operations. Check sites prior to commencement for signs of any unrecorded features. Map appropriate open space buffer around features to provide to contractors prior to commencement. Record location of any potential new finds and report to Council archaeologist.
Browsing Mammals	High deer numbers can have a negative impact on ground flora, tree regeneration & young transplants as well as other important habitats. Deer can strip the bark of pole stage tree crops causing damage and	Ensure susceptible new productive broadleaf woodlands are protected by deer fences where appropriate. Increase the early focus on more intensive deer control and manage the surrounding deer population down to levels that will not detrimentally affect the desired crops planted.

	potentially allowing infections to take hold.	Where fencing is considered necessary follow Forestry Commission Technical Note 19 and consult with RSPB Project Officer.
Red & Grey squirrels	Grey squirrels are likely to negatively impact the resident red squirrel population	Ensure that new woodlands are designed to include conifer and broadleaf trees attractive to red squirrels that connect with existing woodlands on a landscape scale. Manage the forest over time to maintain a dependable food supply. Continue grey squirrel control. New woodlands should contain tree species less attractive to grey squirrels and species prone to bark stripping.
Water quantity and quality	New woodland creation can decrease risk of flooding downstream. Diffuse pollution from forestry operations has the potential to impact upon water quality	Protect all water courses during forestry operations in accordance with the latest edition of the UKFS Forest & Water Guidelines Ensure contractors are briefed and provided with a map showing watercourse locations prior to commencing operations. By carefully managing the design and layout of the riparian zones the impact to water quality should improve and be sustained, by planting appropriate wet woodland species such as alder, willows and birches at lower density. Plant in random groups to stabilise banks and allow more light to penetrate the water's edge creating different habitats to slow the water down and spread over wider areas.
Public access	Windblow has impacted use of the footpath network in Compartment 1002	A new footpath network will be created by leaving unplanted rides and open routes through the site to connect with existing tracks and paths.
Timber transport	Timber from the central section of the woodlands is currently served by Langholm Street, a de-facto Consultation Route,	Restructure the woodland so that future timber will only use the B6357 Agreed Route.
Additional detail:		

5.2 Management Strategy

Following your analysis, provide a broad statement describing your management strategy. Consider all aspects (economics, access, biodiversity, landscape) and pay particular attention to your silvicultural strategy for meeting your management objectives.

NCDT have agreed a clear vision to take forward the creation and management of high-quality woodlands appropriate to the location.

The management strategy to deliver this vision will be achieved by:

- Removing windblown trees from the existing productive woodland, felling and restocking with appropriate native broadleaved trees and shrubs.
- Creating new woodlands, identifying appropriate locations for tree species according to soil type and environmental variables, combining conifer and broadleaved species to produce quality, windfirm timber whilst increasing the proportion of native trees.

In addition to timber production and delivering multiple benefits to biodiversity, the woodlands have been designed to attract use by the local community and visitors by incorporating a series of multi-user paths. A wide variety of tree species have been used to provide a diversity of colours, particularly during the autumn, enhancing the experience for users within the woodland and when viewed from the surrounding local landscape. Structural diversity will be provided by Continuous Cover Forestry for broadleaved woodland, allowing natural regeneration to supplement natural gaps created over time. Productive conifers have been located in less visible areas to minimise the visual impact when clearfelled, with direct access designed in for future timber haulage to the main public road. New woodlands will contribute towards flood prevention by focusing appropriate broadleaved species along riparian buffers and reducing the flow of surface water through remedial action.

6. Management Proposals

Tell us the management operations you intend to carry out over the next 10 years to help meet your management objectives for the woodland. If you intend to carry out felling (e.g. clearfelling) you must apply for permission separately.

Boosie Plantation

- Clearfelling the remaining productive conifers at Boosie Plantation which are becoming more of a windblow risk, which will include leaving some of the oversized Norway spruce and Scots pine for red squirrels, only trees that are considered suitable in terms of seed production and stability that are unlikely to pose any health and safety concerns will be chosen. Brash will be harvested where practicable.
- Restock the site with predominately broadleaf trees (native) to enhance the bio-diversity value of the area and small amounts of Scots pine and Norway spruce (approx. 15%).
- Site will be mounded with an excavator where accessible, areas too steep to mound will be straight/direct planted all broadleaf trees protected with tree shelters.
- Open up any old paths and informal walking routes where possible to provide as a minimum the same level of recreational use.

Pollach Plantation

- Clearfelling the productive conifers at Pollach Plantation during period 2027-2030, which will include leaving some Norway spruce and Scots pine for red squirrels, only trees that are considered suitable in terms of seed production and stability that are unlikely to pose any health and safety concerns will be chosen. Brash will be harvested where practicable.
- Restock the site with predominately broadleaf trees (native) to enhance the bio-diversity value of the area and small amounts of Scots pine and Norway spruce (approx. 15%).

- Site will be mounded with an excavator where accessible, areas too steep to mound will be straight/direct planted all broadleaf trees protected with tree shelters.

Coulter sike (alternative planting area)

- New planting of the site with a diverse assemblage of mostly native broadleaf trees and some mixed conifers to create a range of woodland habitats. Planting to include an area of productive broadleaf's made up of silver birch, aspen and wild cherry that are fast growing and add sustainable timber products over time, additionally an area of Norway spruce and Scots pine to add greater diversity and with longer term objectives to increase the habitat for red squirrel, and provide some potential for timber. Native broadleaf's primarily for biodiversity value.
- Site to be cultivated using a combination of mounding techniques (excavator hinge and inverted mounding or enviro mounding).
- Broadleaf trees to be individually protected with vole guards, damage levels to be assessed through regular monitoring and deer to be controlled through culling, rabbits/hares to be legally controlled through best practice which may include a number of methods for e.g., shooting, gas, traps snares or ferreting and at the preferred time of year

Coulter sike (Woodland Creation)

- A new 25-hectare conifer and broadleaved woodland with direct access to the B6357 is proposed for Coulter Sike (CGR NY 48146 88153) adjacent to the village.
- New planting of the site with a diverse assemblage of conifer and broadleaf trees to provide a variety of sustainable timber products through both clearfelling (conifer) and continuous cover management (broadleaf) and create a range of woodland habitats.
- Site to be cultivated using a combination of mounding techniques (excavator hinge and inverted mounding or enviro mounding).
- Productive broadleaf's to be protected within deer fences to include rabbit net and individual vole guards.
- Other Broadleaf trees to be individually protected with vole guards, damage levels to be assessed through regular monitoring and deer to be controlled through culling, rabbits/hares to be legally controlled through best practice which may include a number of methods for eg, shooting, gas, traps snares or ferreting and at the preferred time of year.
- New multi-user public access tracks will be included in the woodland design to attract local users and visitors to the village.

Coulter sike (existing woodland)

- Remaining trees on Sawmill Bank will be retained as long-term retention and managed for amenity and education.
- Mature trees immediately overlooking the caravan park will be removed and restocked with lower growing native trees and shrubs to comfort caravan users.
- Weed competition will be controlled with herbicide where necessary. Where trees have failed they will be replaced. Browsing damage will be used to inform control measures.
- Deer numbers have been assessed as low near the village and the removal of the older spruce plantations will reduce the risk of browsing damage further. However,

should browsing damage occur deer will be controlled by suitably qualified and insured stalkers.

- Annual surveys will be carried out following planting to assess animal damage, weed competition and tree deaths. Surveys will continue until successful establishment of the crop.
- Windblown trees will be cleared from the Boosie and Sawmill Bank plantations. This area will be restocked with native tree species.
- Existing woodland areas will be developed to encourage visitors with a range of footpaths of varying abilities.

Short sike Woodland Creation

- A further 25-hectare riparian woodland is also currently being prepared at Short Sike to contribute towards flood risk mitigation, this is planned for 2024/25 and will include a range of measures aimed to slow and spread the surface water coming from the hill side above.
- Site will be deer fenced to include rabbit netting.
- Site to be cultivated using a combination of mounding techniques (excavator hinge and inverted mounding or enviro mounding).
- Other Broadleaf trees to be individually protected with vole guards, damage levels to be assessed through regular monitoring and deer to be controlled through culling, rabbits/hares to be legally controlled through best practice which may include a number of methods for eg, shooting, gas, traps snares or ferreting and at the preferred time of year.