



Cumbernauld Greenspaces Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal 2022-2042

Introduction:

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is inviting comments from stakeholders, local people and organisations on the proposed new Long-Term Forest Plan for its Cumbernauld Reserves.

This document explains what a Forest plan is, how and why we manage our reserves here as we do, and what plans we have for management over the next twenty years. The maps at the end of the document show what opportunities and constraints there may be, and what practical management work is proposed. These are the plans on which we would like your comments.

Cumbernauld Greenspaces Long-Term Forest Plan Renewal: Public Consultation

Background

• In 1995 the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) acquired ~281.1 ha of mixed woodlands from the Cumbernauld New Town Development Corporation, with the purpose of managing the land for the benefit of wildlife and for the people of Cumbernauld. The woodlands are managed by the Trust as four separate reserves.

- **Cumbernauld Glen (Dunns Wood, Crow Wood and Vault Glen)**
- **Forest Wood (Forest Plantation and Glencryan Wood)**
- **Luggiebank Wood**
- **Northside Wood (locally known as Seafar Wood)**

Together these reserves form the **Cumbernauld Greenspaces**.

Key features of the Cumbernauld Greenspaces include: -

- Their location in a largely urban environment.
- The sites combine to form a major landscape feature within Cumbernauld.
- The Cumbernauld Core Path Network links the sites.
- The woodlands are in a variable condition in terms of composition, age and physical condition.
- The proximity of adjacent woodland in public ownership e.g. Forestry and Land Scotland and North Lanarkshire Council



Forest Wood Wildlife Reserve looking north to Abronhill

Living Landscapes Programme



In recent years both Government and voluntary sector organisations involved with biodiversity conservation have come to realise that to reverse a decline in biodiversity, action is needed at the ecosystem or landscape scale.

Scottish Wildlife Trust sees ecosystem-scale conservation as a means of delivering a package of measures at multiple scales, ranging from micro-scale, such as the management of individual trees, to large scale spatial planning. By identifying the opportunities, threats and challenges to the landscape's ecosystem health we can manage the landscape coherently, to maximise environmental, social and economic benefits at regional and national levels.

The long term vision of the Trust is to realise 'A Living Landscape in Scotland'. This will involve the creation of attractive, resilient and connected landscapes on a large scale.

Cumbernauld and the ecosystem-based approach.

Through the Cumbernauld Living Landscape, the Trust works collaboratively with a range of partners in and around Cumbernauld for the benefit of local people, visitors, the regional economy and wildlife. This includes delivering a package of unique but complimentary projects which collectively will effect transformational change in Cumbernauld.

Cumbernauld has been chosen as an example project for an urban setting because it already has an established Cumbernauld Greenspaces Project at its core, and because it was seen to have the potential for taking forward projects which together could result in positive and sustainable change on an ecosystem scale.

Further details of the Living Landscapes initiative can be found via the Scottish Wildlife Trust web-site at www.cumbernauldlivinglandscape.org.uk



What is a Long Term Forest Plan?



“A Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP) is a 20 year strategic management plan that brings together the management objectives, the environmental, economic, and social functions and the silvicultural prescriptions into a comprehensive plan to deliver long term benefits through sustainable forest management.” Ref. Scottish Forestry

A Long Term Forest Plan is an effective management tool that:

- sets out plans for a 20 year period
- provides 10 year approval for felling, thinning and tree planting
- gives access to Forestry Grant Scheme
- helps you to obtain forest certification

The Scottish Wildlife Trust’s Cumbernauld Greenspaces LTFP renewal is part funded by Scottish Forestry

Scottish Forestry is the executive agency which is responsible for regulatory, policy, support and grant-giving forestry functions

The Scottish Wildlife Trust manages its land holding as wild land (semi-natural habitats) in accordance with The Scottish Government’s Code of Practice on Non-Native Species made by the Scottish Ministers under section 14C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



Image shows tree planting at Forest Wood cpt. F5a with native trees following felling and extraction of non-native conifers

What is selective thinning?

“Selective thinning is one in which trees are removed or retained based on their individual merits” Ref. Thinning Control FC Field Book 2.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust targets the removal of non-native trees in favour of native Scottish trees to help improve biodiversity. The quantity of trees felled is declared as a percentage of total tree cover, for example, the thinning ratio will likely range between 10 – 25% within a designated LTFP compartment.



The proposals aim to make gradual changes to the woodland areas. In Phase 1, 25% of the woodland cover will be thinned and 1.6% of the woodland will be felled and restocked with native broadleaved trees.

What is felling and why do we need timber?

Clear fell and coupe fell are terms used to describe the removal of tree cover, but in some cases this may not account for the felling of all trees.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust targets the clearance of non-native trees to enable us to protect, enhance and expand the existing area of semi-natural woodland. The proposed felling areas are very small and cover less than 2% of the Trust's total land holding in Cumbernauld. In these areas we will try to extract timber to market, but we are not driven by commercial operations. Timber production is vital to the Scottish and UK economy. We depend upon a range of products derived from wood, for example, paper, fencing, floorboards, toys, furniture, cardboard and toilet paper. A huge amount of timber is being imported to the UK from as far away as China and Brazil. In order to reduce our carbon footprint we must become more reliant on local sustainable forestry and homegrown timber for the goods and services we all depend upon.



These images show the change following prescribed coupe fell (0.2 Hectares) of Sitka spruce at Northside Wood near Seafar in 2018

What about tree planting?

Woodland owners are legally obliged to restock areas where felling creates open ground. It is a priority for the Scottish Wildlife Trust, North Lanarkshire Council and Scottish Forestry to ensure that Ancient Semi-natural Woodland is restored and restocked, and new native woodland is established.



Tree planting post-felling at this site comprises: hazel, blackthorn, rowan and birch to replace Sitka spruce and larch at Northside Wood near Seafar. We introduced native ground flora seed across the site to enhance the establishment of native woodland habitat.

The Trust's management objectives and LTFP enable training providers to run courses for people seeking a career in conservation, forestry, arboriculture and landscaping



What is ancient woodland?

“In Scotland, Ancient Woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750.

Ancient Woods are important because:

They include all remnants of Scotland’s original woodland; their flora and fauna may preserve elements of the natural composition of the original Atlantic forests.

They usually have much richer wildlife than that of more recent woods.

They preserve the integrity of soil ecological processes and associated biodiversity.

Some have been managed by traditional methods for centuries and demonstrate an enduring relationship between people and nature.

Woods and veteran trees are ancient monuments whose value to the local community and historians may be as great as that of the older buildings in a parish.

Once destroyed, they cannot be recreated.”

Ref. NatureScot

“Now only 1 - 2 % of Britain’s land area is occupied by Ancient Semi-natural Woodland.”

Ref. Forestry Commission.



Cumbernauld Glen (Crow Wood) Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW)

The Trust believes it is important to ensure local people have good access to wildlife reserves in Cumbernauld and is committed to delivering projects that benefit people and wildlife.



Fun, Funded by WREN Landfill Communities Fund

“The recent Native Woodland Survey of Scotland shows that North Lanarkshire has 2,916 ha of native woodland (6.2% of the land area), with an additional 239 ha as near native. Ancient Woodland only covers 461 ha (1.1%) which is below the national average of 4.2%.” Ref. NLC Woodland Action Plan



Cumbernauld Glen – Ancient Semi-natural Woodland



Cumbernauld Glen – newly planted native woodland

The right tree in the right place



The Trust recognises that some residents feel that trees may have been planted too close to residential areas during the initial development of the New Town. We are working towards restructuring tree cover to create cascade woodland edges that benefit people and wildlife.



Photograph shows
Cumbernauld Living Landscape
volunteers clearing
non-native beech
regeneration from
Cumbernauld Glen cpt. 22

*'Where mixed woods of oak and
beech are left to their own
devices, they ultimately became
pure beech woods.'*

John Evelyn. (1620-1706)

Site Description

Cumbernauld Glen (Dunns Wood, Crow Wood and Vault Glen)

Cumbernauld Glen extends to 118.5 ha and forms an extended linear area of mixed woodland along the Red Burn and the Glasgow-Falkirk Railway both of which run through Cumbernauld.

The woodland areas vary in terms of age and composition with areas of mature and semi-mature mixed broadleaf, semi-mature mixed woodland with groups of conifer, conifer dominated blocks, and areas of young restocking and new planting.

The site also has areas managed as open space primarily as wildlife habitat, and also as areas for recreational use. The woodland is located beside Cumbernauld House Park and is strongly associated with the history of the former estate.

Most of the woodland areas are recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory

- Ancient woodland interpreted as semi-natural woodland from maps of 1750 (1a) or 1860 (2a) and continuously wooded to the present day.
- Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO) (1b and 2b).
- Other woodlands on 'Roy' woodlands sites (3)

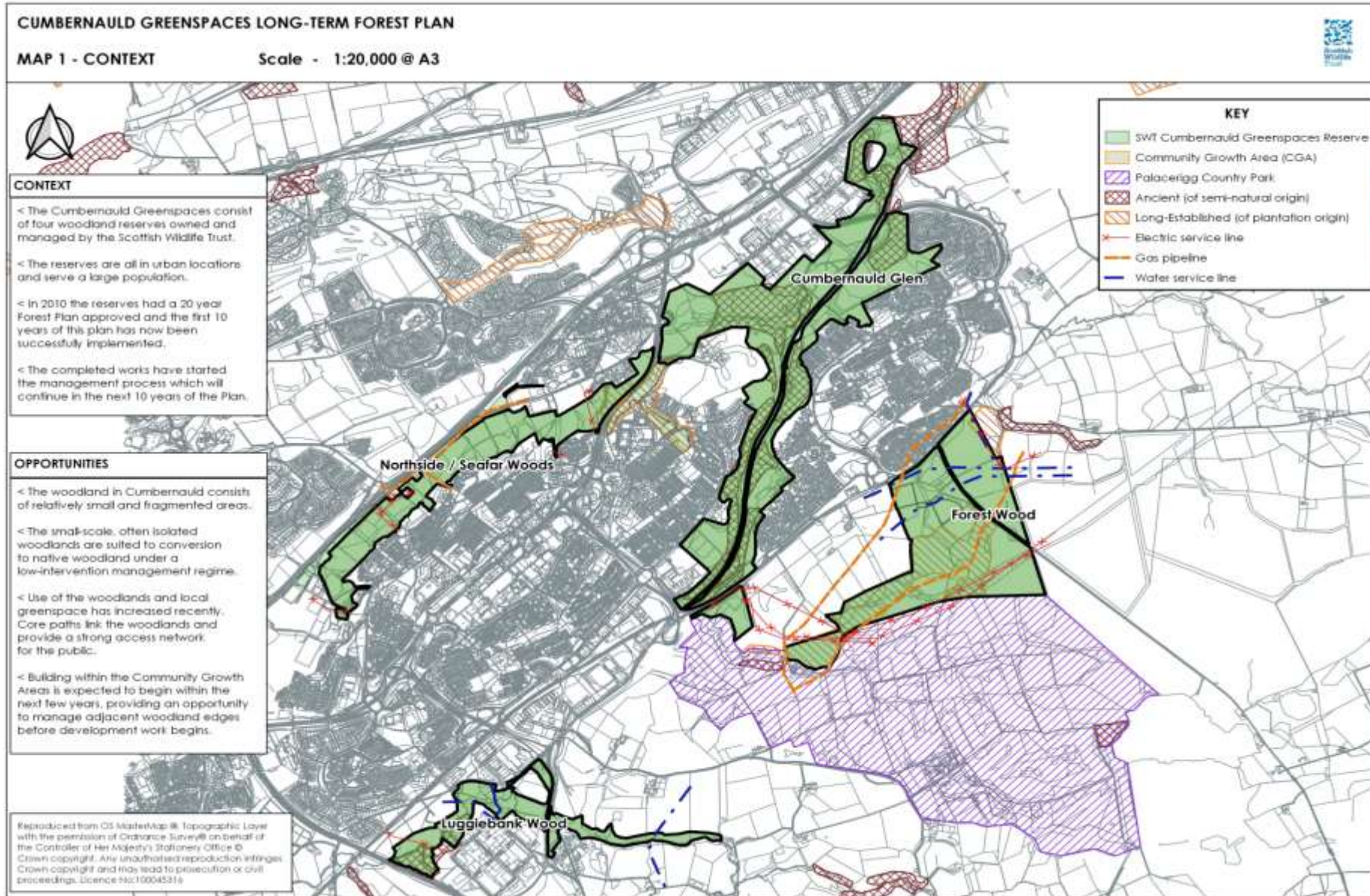
The main identified issues relating to this site are:

- Tree safety along edges to highways and properties.
- Tree safety along public footpaths.
- Wind-firmness of conifer blocks and groups.
- Management access, limited by topography and features such as housing and watercourses, and the railway.
- The localised regeneration of non-native tree species and invasive flora establishing along the Red Burn watercourse.

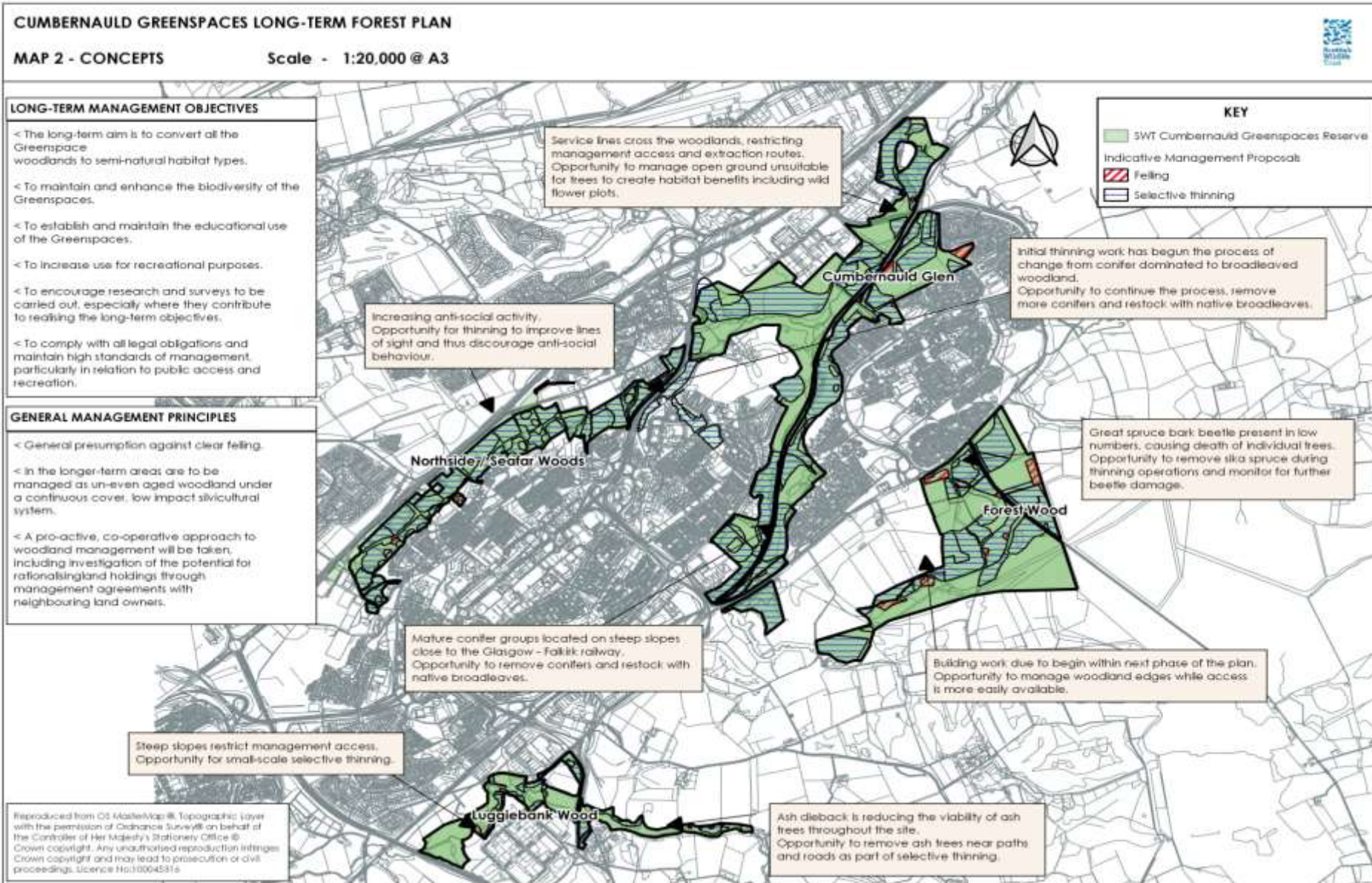


Cumbernauld Glen looking south across Crow Wood towards Vault Glen

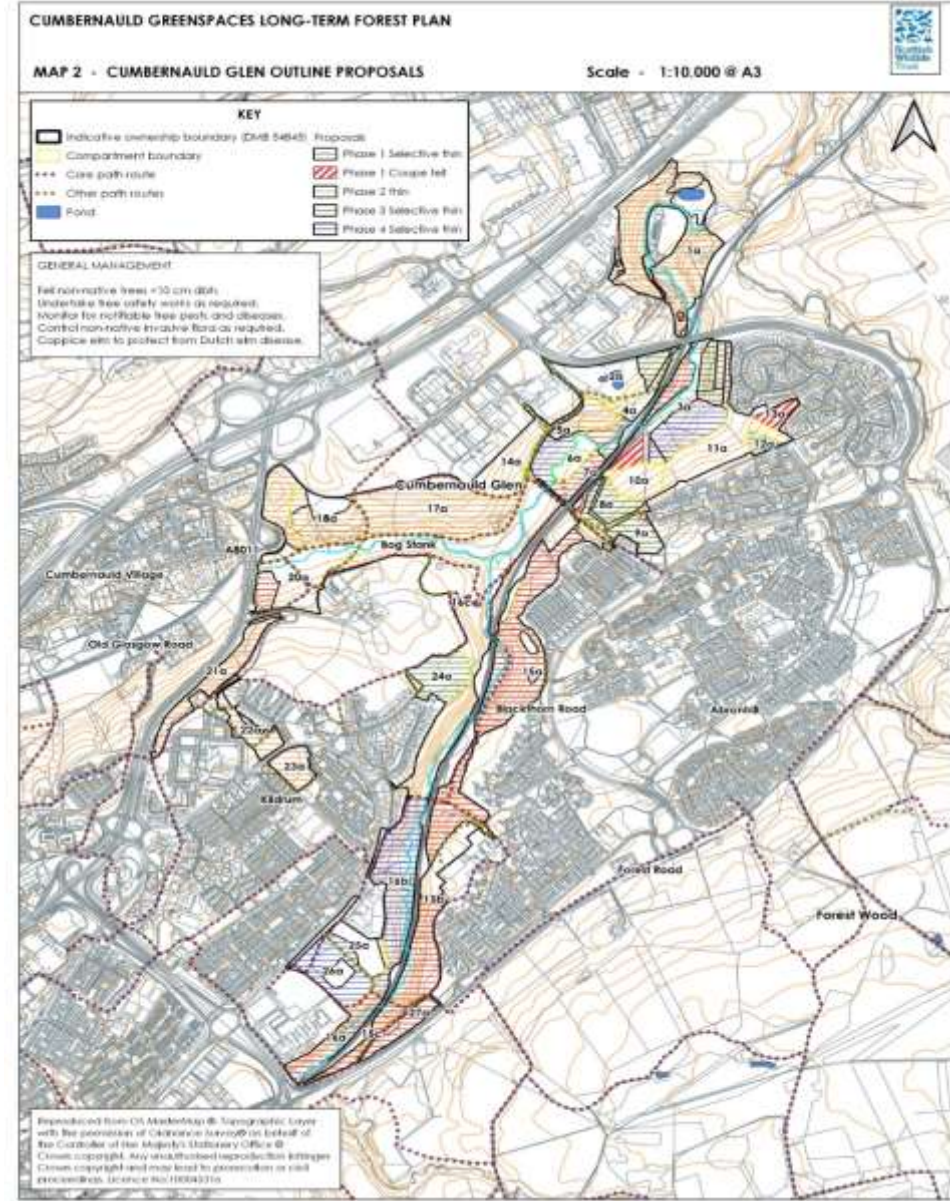
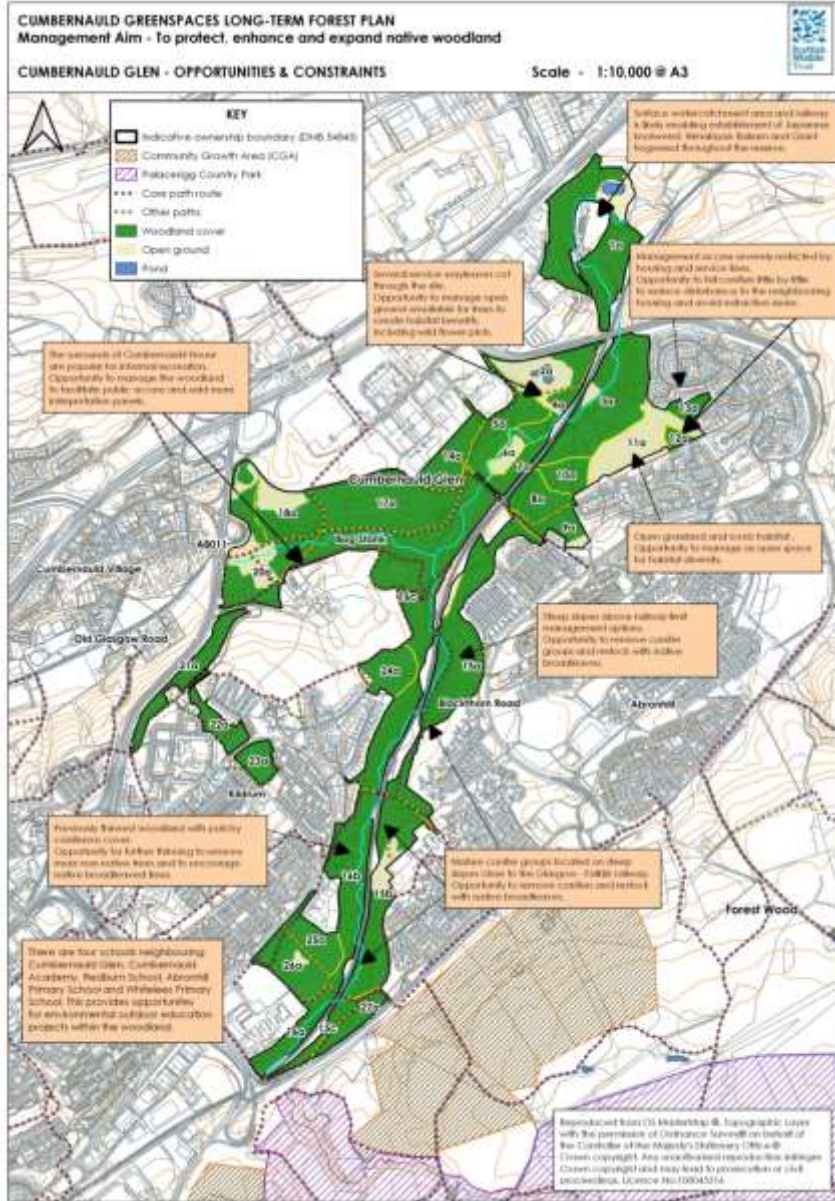
Cumbernauld Greenspaces Long-Term Forest Plan 2022 - 2042: Context & Opportunities



Cumbernauld Greenspaces Long-Term Forest Plan 2022 – 2042: Concepts



Long-Term Forest Plan 2022 – 2042 Cumbernauld Glen Wildlife Reserve



Site Description

Forest Wood (Forest Plantation and Glencryan Wood)

Forest Wood is an 89.9 ha area made up of a mixture of old plantation broadleaved woodland with coniferous and broadleaved plantation woodland and areas of grassland, peat bog and several small fire ponds. The site includes part of Fannyside Muir which is the best example of blanket bog in North Lanarkshire and a section of woodland recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory as Long-established Woodland of plantation origin (continuous cover since c. 1860.)

The site lies between Palacerigg Country Park and residential housing at Abronhill, adjoins the Forestry and Land Scotland Arns Plantation property, and has good path links. The majority of the site is level with the northern sections sloping down to the north beside Forest Road. One main path provides access to the site and allows good links to other walking routes.

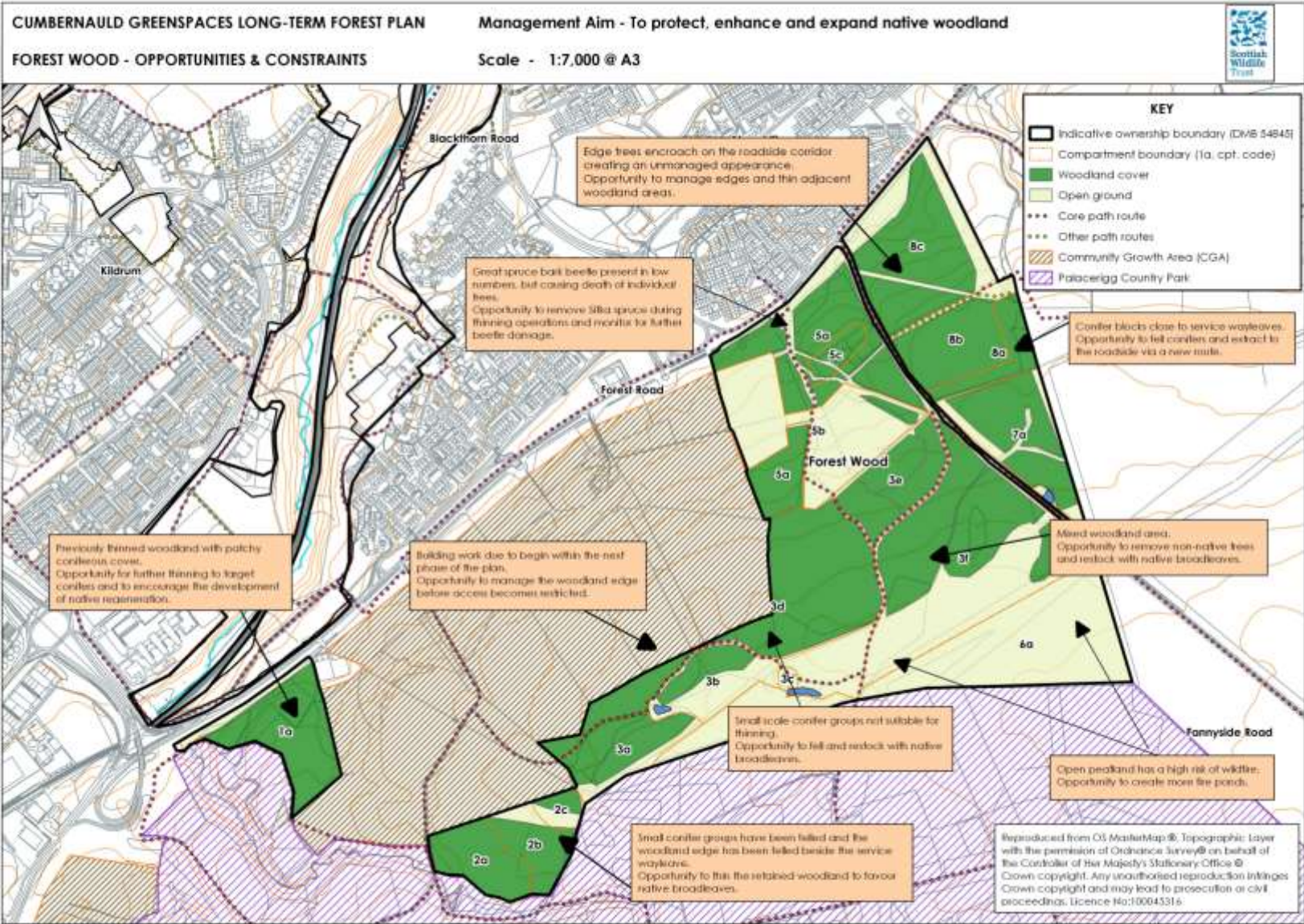
The main identified issues relating to this site are:

- The dominance of non-native tree species.
- The presence of coniferous plantation on bog habitat.
- An area of ground to the north and west of the site is designated as a Community Growth Area (CGA), the development of which is likely to reduce access to the woodland edge and increase the hazard risk for woodland edge trees.
- The proposed development is also likely to result in added recreational demands and pressure on the area.
- Proximity of trees to utilities and proposed route of the Denny to Wishaw pylon extension

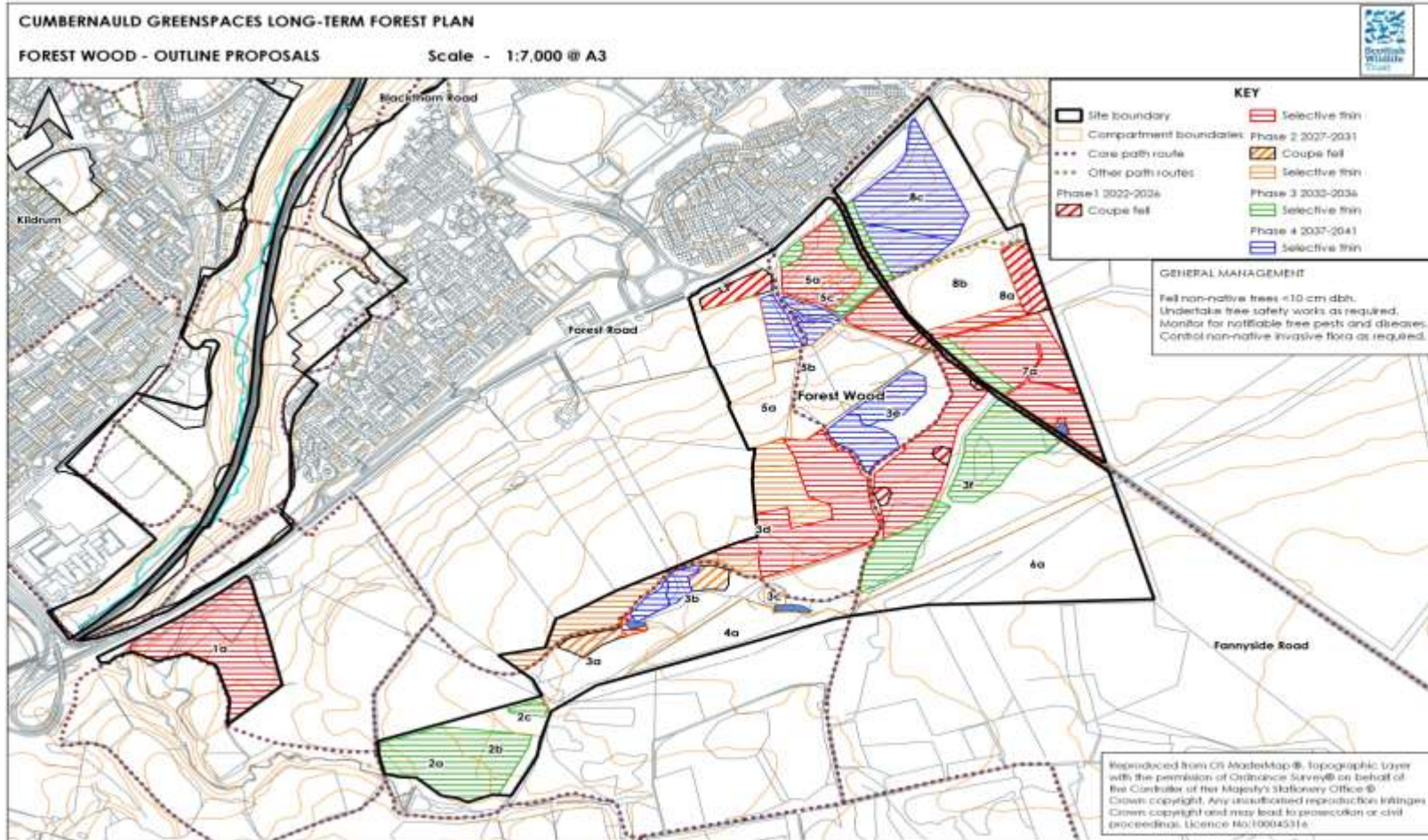


Forest Wood Wildlife Reserve looking east towards Fannyside Road and Arns Plantation

Forest Wood Wildlife Reserve Long-term Forest Plan 2022-2042 Opportunities & Constraints



Forest Wood Wildlife Reserve Long-term Forest Plan 2022-2042 Outline Proposals



Site Description

Luggiebank Wood

Luggiebank Wood occupies the section of the Luggie Glen in the valley between Blairlinn Industrial Area and Luggiebank Village to the south, and Lenziemill Industrial Estate to the north. The reserve covers 26.5 ha in total, the majority of which is under woodland cover. A Community Growth Area designation has been identified on land to the north of the Glen.

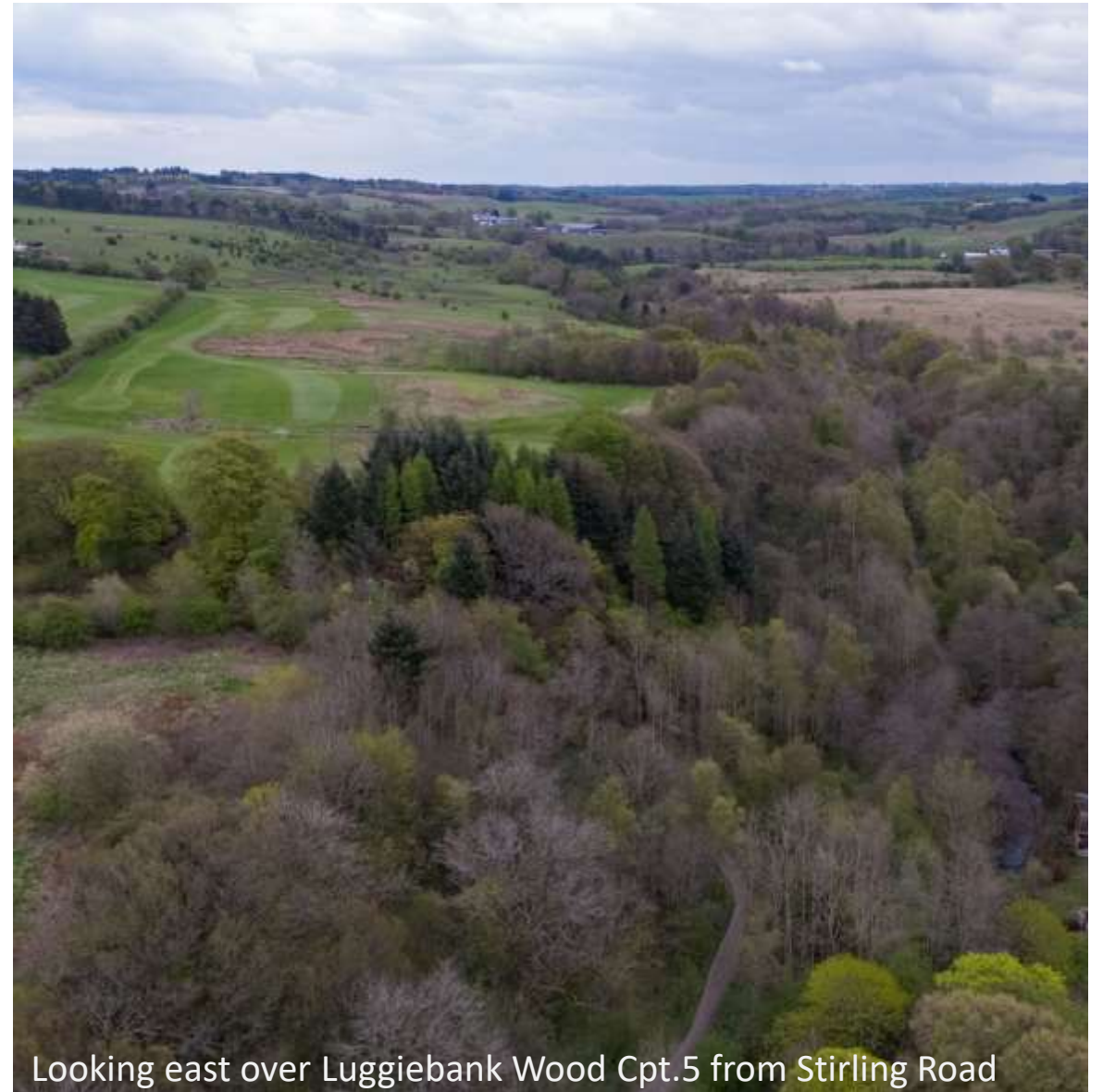
The woodlands follow the valley along the sides of the Luggie Water and consist mainly of areas of native woodland, with sections of mature policy woodland, and a few small groups of conifers. Restructuring in the form of conifer removal has been carried out in recent years with the felled areas allowed to regenerate with native species.

Areas managed as open ground also form a significant component of the site, particularly to the north-western end. These areas consist of a variety of grassland and wetland types providing valuable habitat diversity.

The footpath along the northern edge of the Luggie Water, which runs the full length of the site and continues westwards, forms part of the Luggie Glen Walk. The area has an industrial heritage, remnants of which are still discernible (e.g. the Lenzie Mill lade).

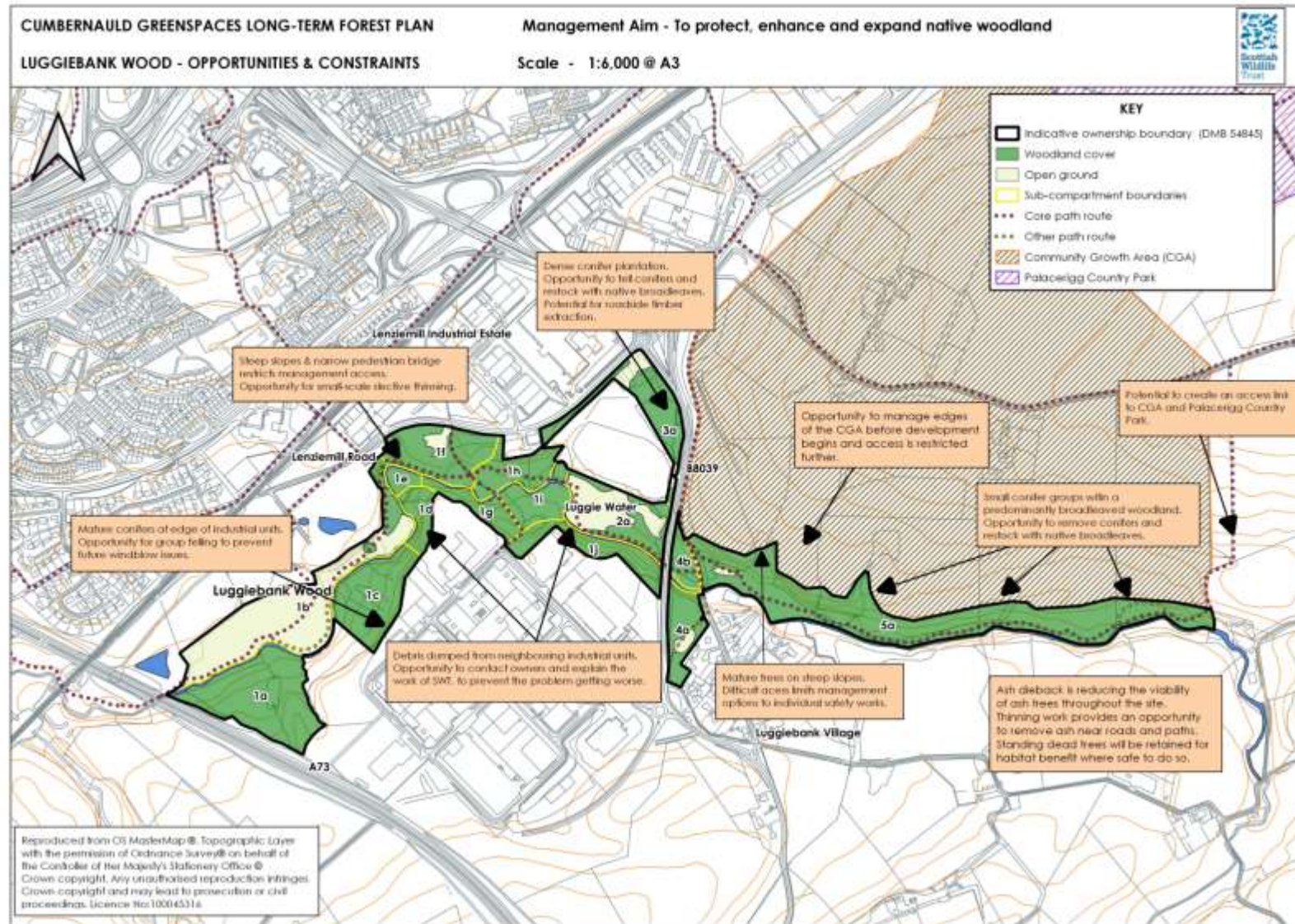
The main identified issues relating to this site are:

- Stability of non-native conifer and broadleaf groups and tree safety in relation to mature trees adjacent to footpaths and Industrial Estates.
- Fly-tipping and litter particularly on the edges of industrial estates.
- Management access, limited mainly by steep valley slopes, industrial areas and by the Luggie Water.
- Ash Dieback throughout the woodland.

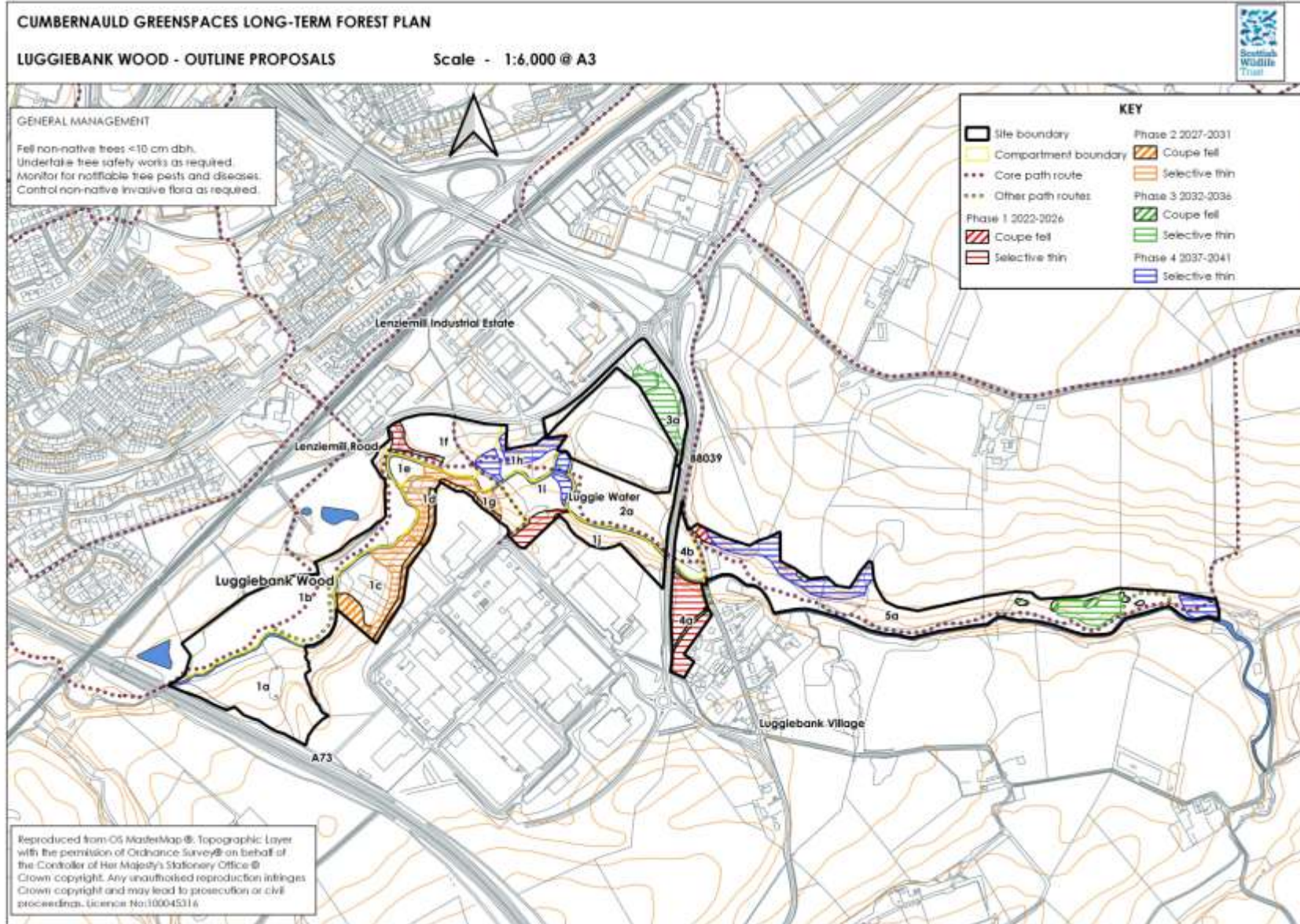


Looking east over Luggiebank Wood Cpt.5 from Stirling Road

Luggiebank Wood Wildlife Reserve Long-Term Forest Plan 2022-2042 Opportunities & Constraints



Luggiebank Wood Wildlife Reserve Long-Term Forest Plan 2022-2042 Outline Proposals



Site Description

Northside Wood

Northside Wood covers an area of 46.2 ha and takes the form of a continuous narrow strip of woodland with small open areas and a small strip separated from the main body by a minor public road. The site is situated on the south eastern side of the busy M80 motorway and adjacent to residential housing at Seafar on the south east side.

The site stretches from Our Lady's High School in the south to Cumbernauld Village in the north. The location makes the wood highly visible both to the residents of Cumbernauld on the east side and to passers by on the M80 on the west side.

Due to its location the woodland has grown to be a physical screen and a noise filter as well as a landscape feature and landmark. The site is dominated by mixed species woodland cover with small areas occupied by open grassland, open wet ground, patches of rank weeds and two small ponds.

The site slopes moderately to the northwest and includes steep slopes in its northern section.

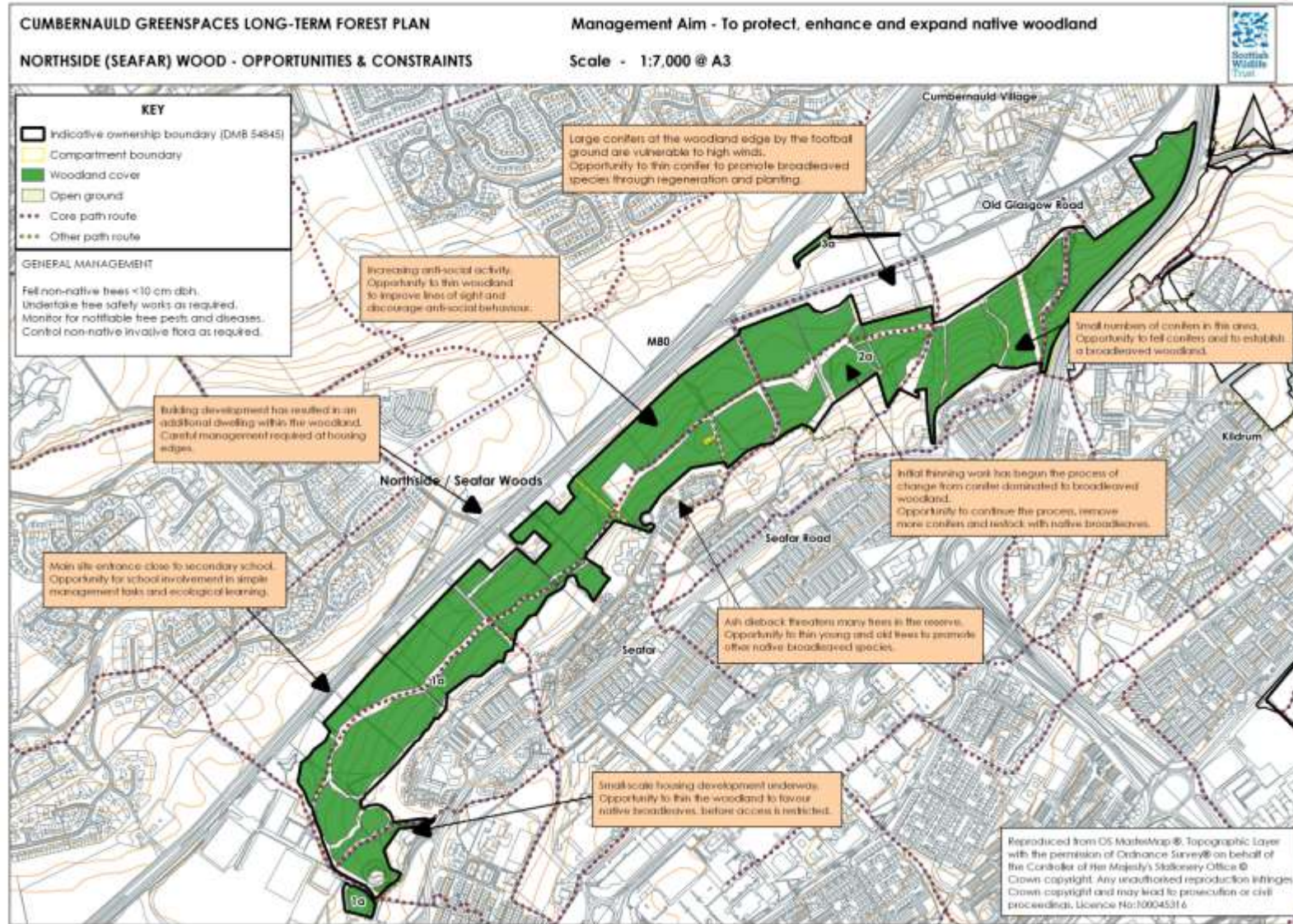
The main identified issues relating to this site are:

- The strong dominance of non-native tree species.
- The even-aged nature of the wood and lack of structural diversity.
- Restricted access for management purposes due to the close proximity of roads and houses and the presence of steep slopes.
- New housing is being developed adjacent to part of the site.
- Ash Dieback throughout the woodland.

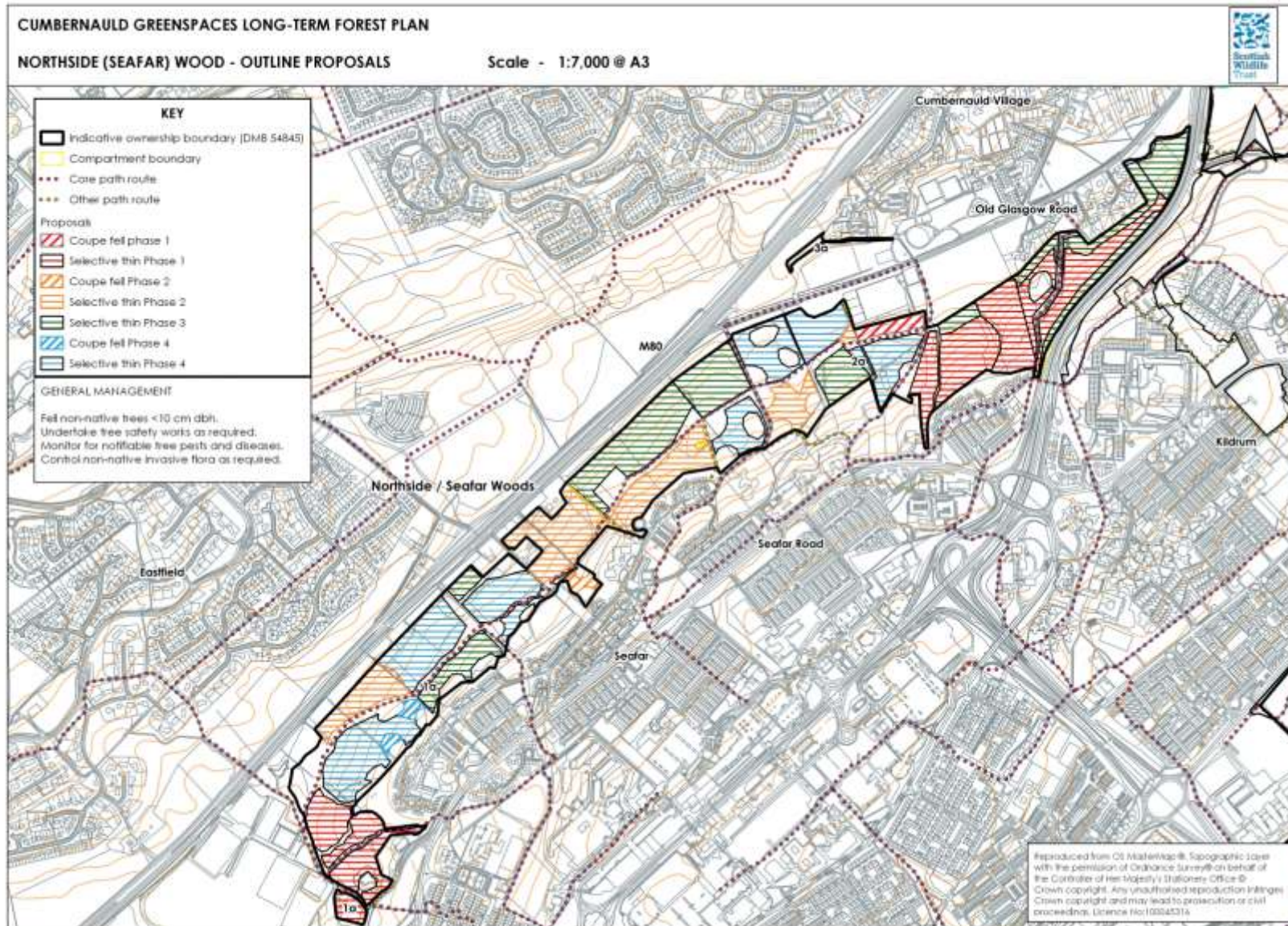


Aerial image shows timber extraction routes following felling and thinning in 2018

Northside Wood Wildlife Reserve Long-Term Forest Plan 2022-2042 Opportunities & Constraints



Northside Wood Wildlife Reserve Long-Term Forest Plan 2022-2042 Outline Proposals



Contact us

Please get in touch and let us know what you think of our plan to protect, enhance and expand native woodland across the Trust's reserves in Cumbernauld.

Please e-mail us at CumbernauldLL@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk, putting Long-Term Forest Plan in the subject line. If your comments relate to a specific reserve, please add the name of the reserve as well.



Publishing notes:

- All photographs taken or commissioned by Scottish Wildlife Trust unless otherwise stated
- Aerial photos will show other land types and ownership neighbouring the Trust's land holding
- Scottish Forestry was formerly known as Forestry Commission Scotland until 2019

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is a Scottish registered charity (charity number SC005792).

It is also a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (registered number SC040247).

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