

Ayrshire Woodland Strategy

Draft for Consultation

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INTRODUCTION

Trees are an essential part of the character of Ayrshire and there is a wide variety of species and location. Over twenty per cent of the land area is covered by trees. These can vary from the rare whitebeam woods in Arran through the beech woods of the river valleys and the eighteenth century designed landscapes of the agricultural lowlands to the plantations of productive conifer species in the Southern Uplands. Trees are, therefore, an inescapable part of daily life. But they are also a vital economic resource employing several thousand people and Ayrshire has established itself as one of the United Kingdom centres for wood processing industries.

Although tree planting and management is not contained within planning legislation, broad forestry strategy has been directed in the past by the development of an Indicative Forestry Strategy for an area, aspects of which were then included in a structure plan. Prior to local government reorganisation this was prepared as a joint exercise between the former Strathclyde Regional Council and the Forestry Commission and included in the Strathclyde Structure Plan. When this plan was replaced by the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan in 2000, all policies on forestry lapsed. In the discussions leading to the approval of the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan, however, the Ayrshire Councils gave a commitment to preparing an Indicative Forestry Strategy for Ayrshire as soon as was practicable.

With the establishment of the Scottish Parliament it became apparent that a reinvigorated forestry policy for Scotland would be prepared, but with a considerable re-emphasis on the creation of multi-functional woodlands and an enhanced appreciation of the economic importance of the woodland resource. The publication of "Forests for Scotland: The Scottish Forestry Strategy" by the Scottish Executive and "Roots for Growth: A Strategic Framework for Action for the Scottish Forestry Industries" by Scottish Enterprise in 2000, therefore, provides both the context and the catalyst for the preparation of an Ayrshire Woodland Strategy.

This document is presented in draft form for consultation. It is presented as a partnership between the community and the industry and explores a number of actions that could be developed to give Ayrshire a world-class woodland resource.

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THE NATIONAL POLICY BACKGROUND

There are a wide range of national contexts in which to place a woodland strategy for Ayrshire. This section briefly explores the main drivers of national policy, but can clearly cover only the main elements and how they interact with any potential new policy.

Planning Context

The relationship between planning and woodland management is not straight forward as the planting of trees does not fall within current planning legislation. There are two broad areas of interaction.

- An Indicative Forestry Strategy which seeks to link forestry to other aspects of strategic policy in an overall structure plan; and
- Woodland Grant Scheme Applications where the Forestry Commission consults councils on their views on individual applications to plant trees: councils are statutory consultees and can seek to object to or amend proposals.

In practice this means that a constructive dialogue takes place between the Councils and the Commission at a variety of levels, particularly as both the national forestry strategy and overall strategic policy has moved significantly towards the development of multi-purpose woodland and a partnership approach to common issues. The need to include an Indicative Forestry Strategy into the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan was recognised at an early stage, but forestry policy reviews at national level precluded its inclusion in the structure plan submitted and approved during 1999.

The role and purpose of an Indicative Forestry Strategy are set out in Government Circular 9/99. The principle elements of are:

- A policy statement which links in to other relevant policies in the Structure Plan; and
- Locational guidance in the form of a diagram on future afforestation potential.

In addition an Indicative Forestry Strategy aims to provide a co-ordinated approach to the sensitive identification and development of potential areas of woodland expansion, management and harvesting. The guidance also requires strategic planning authorities to review their Strategy in partnership with other stakeholders and highlights the need for full community participation. In the light of the recommendations of the Scottish Forestry Strategy, however, this concept has been developed in Ayrshire into a more broadly based woodland strategy.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity as a concept emerged from the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The term simply defines all varieties of life on the Earth. It is also a measure of sustainable development, and as such measuring biodiversity is a key element in measuring whether sustainable development targets are being achieved.

There has been a strong government commitment to the concept of biodiversity through the production of the UK Action Plan for Biodiversity (1994) and by the establishment of the

Scottish Biodiversity Group in 1996. In line with the concept of “think global, act local” the Government sees the delivery mechanism for biodiversity not just at the national scale but through local biodiversity action plans.

The general thrust of biodiversity action is in the definition of priority action plans for species and habitats under threat or in decline. In the United Kingdom this has led to some 400 species and 40 habitat action plans, many associated with woodland biodiversity. This has been taken forward in Scotland by the Scottish Biodiversity Group’s “Action for Scotland’s Biodiversity” (2000). As such both the “UK Forestry Standard” (1998) and the “Scottish Forestry Strategy” (2000) place a particular emphasis on the role that woodland planting and management can play in the development of biodiversity and this is carried forward to the Ayrshire Woodland Strategy.

Rural Policy Context

Following devolution, the Scottish Executive underlined its commitment to rural communities and the rural economy through the creation of the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department and the implementation of a new devolved rural strategy. ‘Rural Scotland – A New Approach’ took forward the pledge given in ‘Partnership for Scotland’ to develop an integrated approach to sustain and support rural communities, economies and the environment. In addition, the ‘A New Approach’ highlighted the difficulty of developing and co-ordinating effective national strategies over complex rural areas with many inter-related policies occurring simultaneously. It was recognised that the implementation of generic policy approaches, with more detailed solutions in specific topics such as forestry may be more appropriate. This national rural policy therefore provides an important policy context for the development of a Woodland Strategy.

Forestry Policy Context

The framework for forestry policy in the United Kingdom has been informed by international commitments made since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Together these agreements set the framework for sustainable forestry. More recently, the revision of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the United Kingdom (1999) continued to promote the importance of woodlands to sustainable development objectives and indicated a commitment to continue the expansion of the wooded area.

The governments approach to sustainable forestry was published in 1998 in the UK Forestry Standard. It sets out the criteria and standards for the sustainable management of all forests and woodlands in the UK. Whilst providing the benchmark for all forestry proposals, it also forms the basis of an independent certification scheme – The UK Woodlands Assurance Scheme. Many woods and forests are already independently certified against this standard.

After devolution, the responsibility for forestry in Scotland like all other rural affairs now rests with the Scottish Executive. ‘Forests for Scotland – The Scottish Forestry Strategy’ was launched in November 2000 and fulfils pledges given within ‘Rural Scotland – A New Approach’. Further, in addition to developing the commitments made within the United Kingdom Sustainable Development Strategy, ‘Forests for Scotland’ promotes multi-purpose woodland for both market and non-market benefits, and the enhancement of local diversity and distinctiveness. Partnership between interested parties and integration of rural land practices is also central to the ethos of the document.

The Forestry Commission regulates forest development by private owners and the management activities of Forest Enterprise who have the responsibility for the management of nationally owned forests. Regulation is achieved through grant schemes such as the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS) or felling licences. The WGS is paid to private landowners to assist with the management of existing forests and to help create new woodland, whilst the FWPS is designed to encourage farmers to reduce direct agricultural production by diversification into woodland creation.

Forestry development is also subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations. These require anyone who wishes to carry out a relevant project (e.g. deforestation, afforestation, forestry roads or quarries) that might have a significant effect on the environment, to obtain consent for the work from the Forestry Commission. The applicant or proposer must submit an Environmental Statement (ES) to apply for consent. The ES is subject to full public consultation.

Recently the Government has announced a review of both the Woodland Grant Scheme and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme. The Review is being managed jointly by the Forestry Commission and the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department "to improve their effectiveness in delivering priorities identified in the Scottish Forestry Strategy as well as developing Agriculture Strategy and the Rural Development Regulation." It is to be hoped this will provide a stronger link between woodland management strategies developed at the local level and the grant aid for planting trees.

Agricultural Policy Context

The 'Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture' attempts to address the serious difficulties identified by Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department in 'Rural Scotland – A New Approach' within the agricultural sector. In addition the Strategy introduces an integrated and co-ordinated long-term approach to the development and management of the agricultural sector and the countryside.

In the future, the strategy states that farming is likely to become more independent, and with increased efficiency within the market place rather than increased subsidy sustaining profitability. Diversification of the agricultural resource into niche markets including food, retail and environmental crops will provide additional financial stability. Through partnership, there will be better promotion and integration with other rural land uses and the environment, with those farmers pioneering better environmental stewardship being rewarded through grant aid. It is anticipated that during this period of substantial change in the agricultural economy, farming will look to tree planting as another area into which farming might diversify.

Rural Development Plan for Scotland

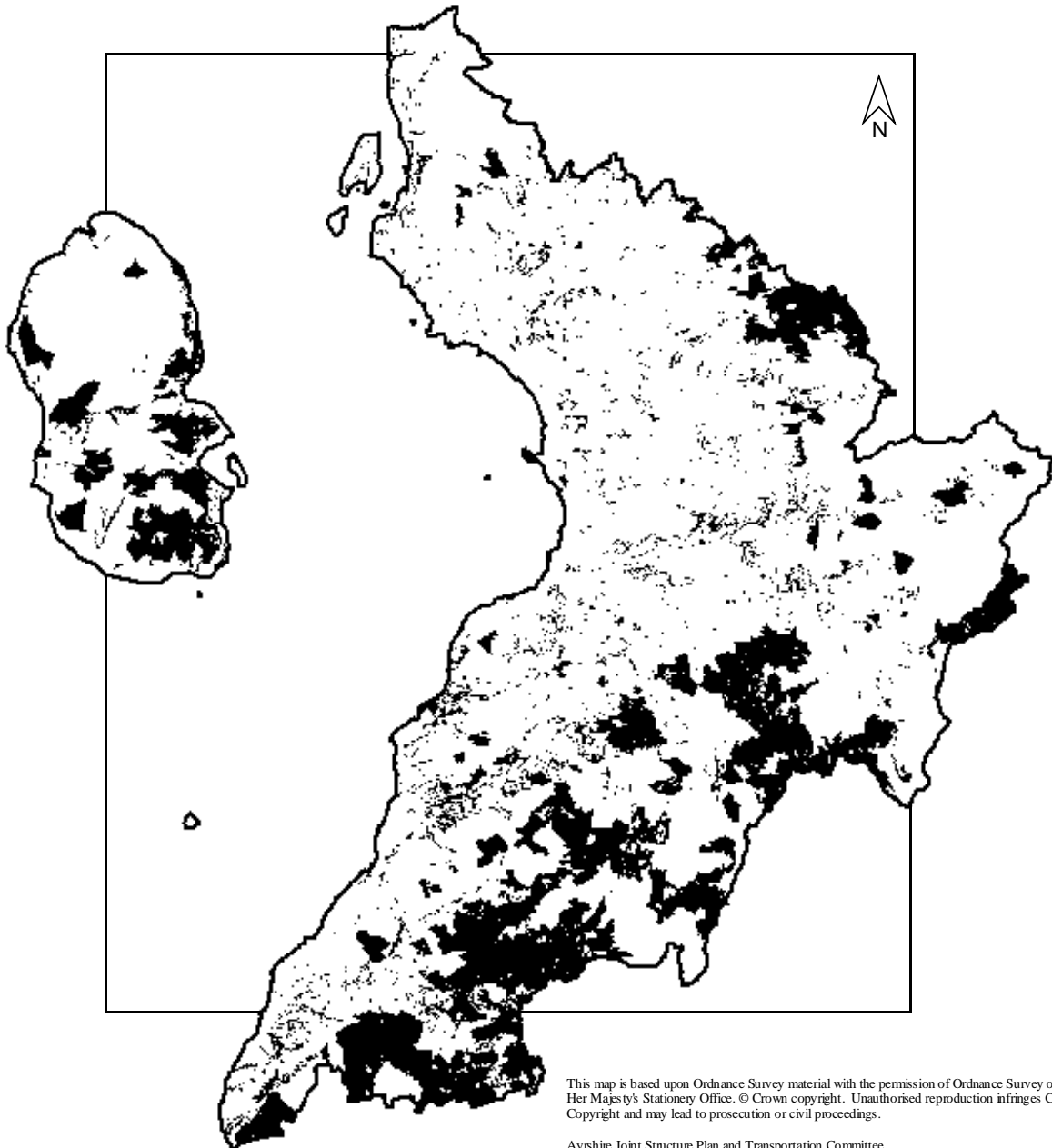
The Rural Development Plan for Scotland is required under European Legislation to provide a national overview against which to set a rural development approach with particular emphasis on the agricultural and forestry sectors. National funding mechanisms are explored and inter-linked with available European funds to focus the reorientation of policy toward the development of a more sustainable and integrated woodland and farmland rural strategy.

As the key programme for targeting European funds the Plan will have a major influence in the implementation of any future Woodlands Strategy. Part of the EU regulation is

specifically identified for support to be provided to contribute to the maintenance of and development of the economic, ecological and social functions of forests in rural areas, both for the afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land and for investments in forests.

FIGURE 1

WOODLAND WITHIN AYRSHIRE 1999



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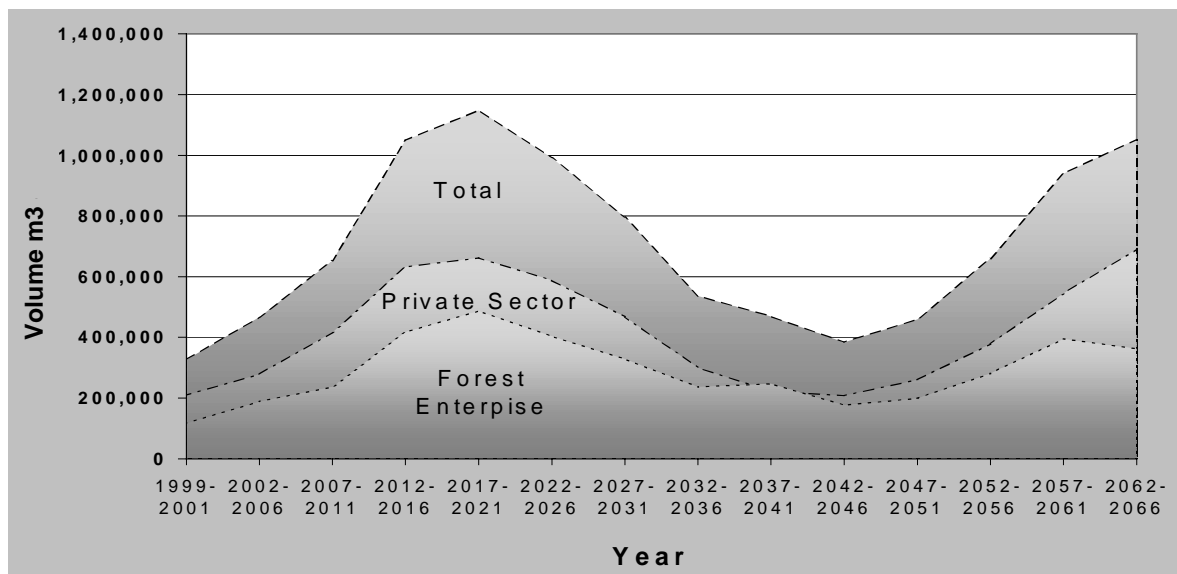
THE EXISTING WOODLAND RESOURCE

Commercial Woodland

Ayrshire like many other parts of Scotland experienced extensive timber planting throughout the latter part of the 20th century. This has resulted in woodland and commercial planting covering about 21% of the total land cover area of the area (see Figure 1). The timber resource currently reaching maturity will provide mainly coniferous softwood for extraction and use in processing plants.

With the rest of Scotland, a significant proportion of the commercially planted forest has reached maturity, or will do so in the near future. Latest long-term timber production estimates published by the Forestry Commission (Figure 2) indicate that Ayrshire will experience a three-fold increase in soft wood timber available for extraction between 2001 and 2021, from 350,000m³ to 1,150,000 m³. Not only could this provide considerable employment opportunities and potential economic benefits, but it also gives some indication of the importance that re-structuring will have in creating forests for the future.

Figure 2: Estimated Timber Volume Production by Sector in Ayrshire



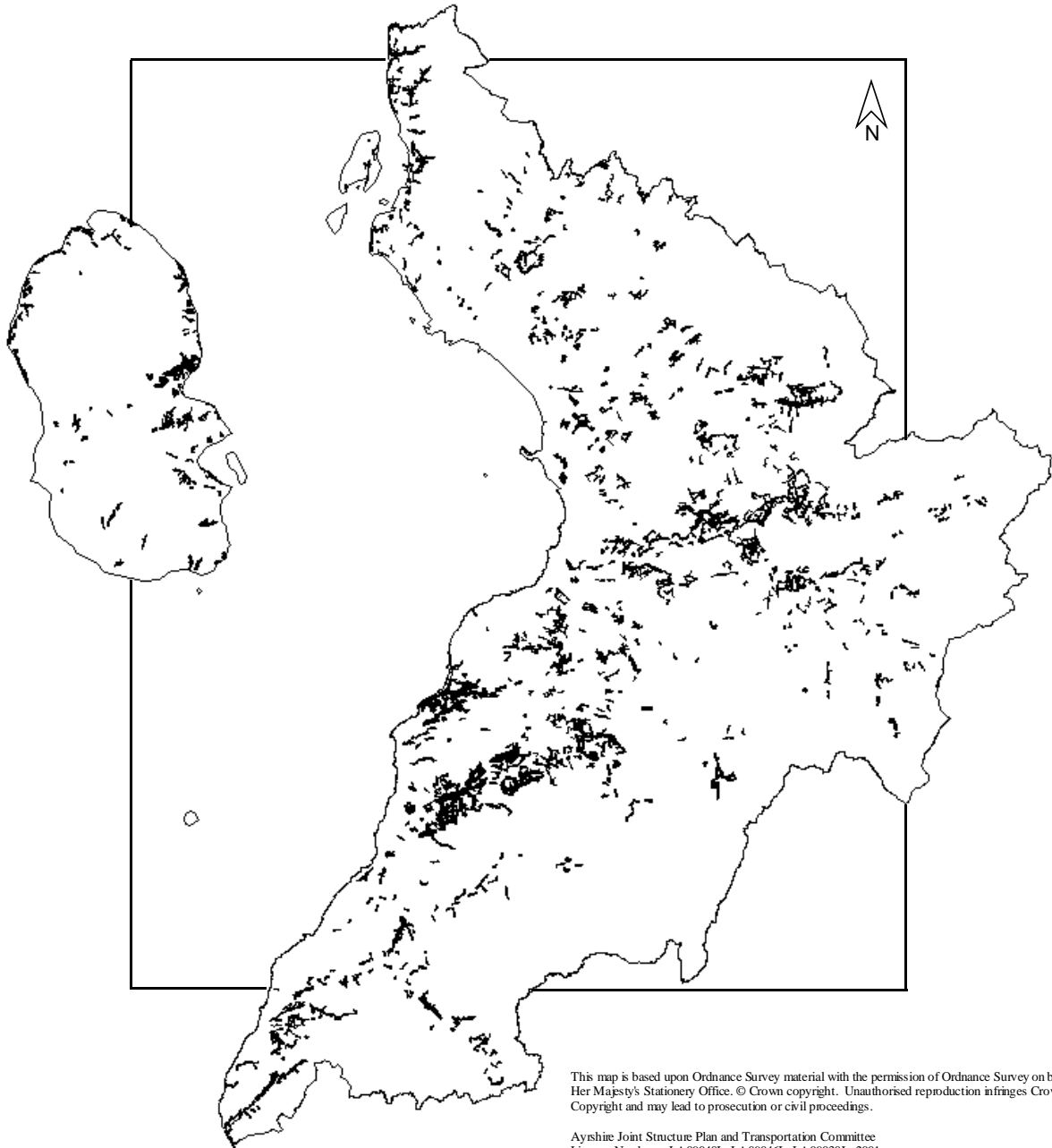
Source: Forestry Commission

Woodland Environment

Another significant element of the woodland resource is the ancient and long-established or semi-natural woods that account for just over 3% of the total countryside area. These are identified by the Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory and the Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory. Figure 3 displays the extent of these woodlands, located principally in lower lying areas close to valley floors and following the river networks. Native species of trees are predominant in these woodlands, some of which are known to have been in existence for many hundreds of years. Certain areas including the gorge woodlands of the River Ayr, are considered to be of particular importance and as such have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). In the north of Arran woodlands in Glen Diomhan have been included within an SSSI on account of the presence of rare species of whitebeam endemic to the island.

FIGURE 3

ANCIENT AND SEMI NATURAL WOODS WITHIN
AYRSHIRE

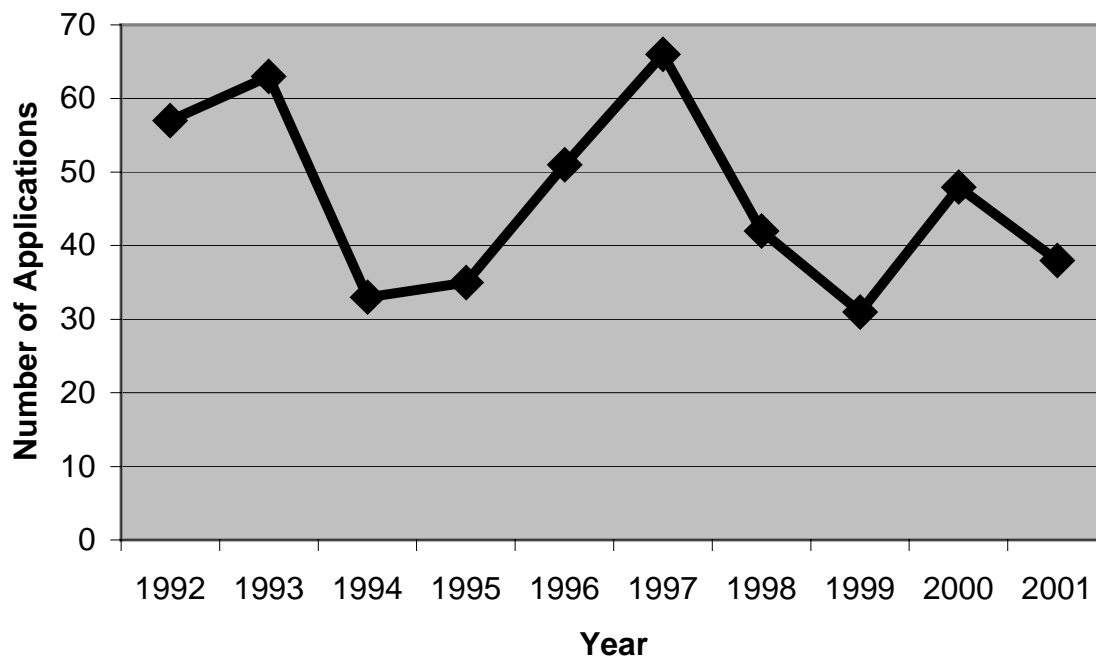


Many ancient or semi-natural woodlands are recognised as being of local importance for their nature conservation value and the contribution that they make to the character of the landscape. Farm woodlands including shelterbelts and hedgerow trees contribute to the landscape and provide important habitats for wildlife. On a larger scale there are a number of fine examples of estate woodlands in Ayrshire. These are often composed of a mixture of designed landscapes and plantations.

Planting Trends

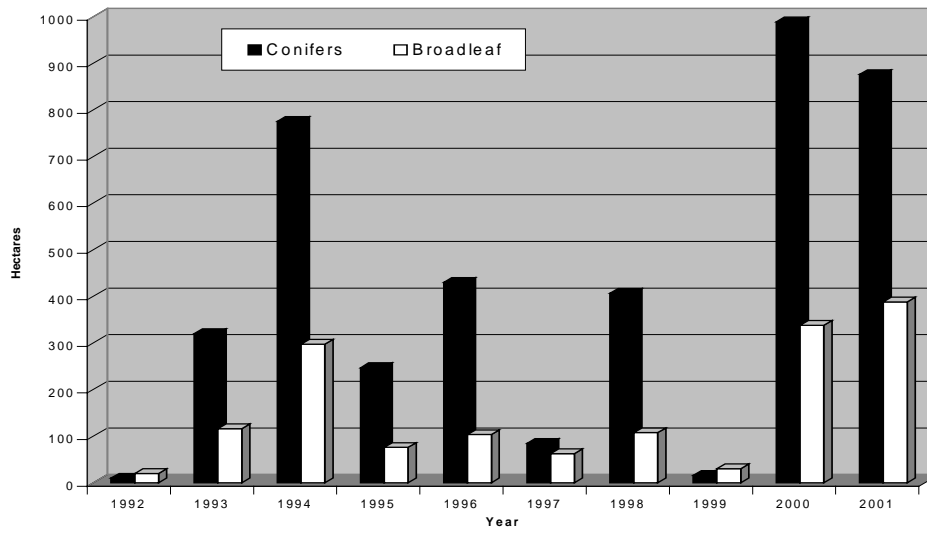
Targeted funding, facilitated through the Woodland Grant Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme, combined with changes in agricultural trends and practices has resulted in a wide variation in the number of applications submitted each year for approval under the two schemes. There have also been marked changes in the type of trees, with a higher proportion of broadleaf woodland being planted since 1990 (see Figures 4 and 5). This shift from coniferous planting is also a result of changes in the funding arrangements of forestry grants, a revision of national forestry policy and the diversification and viability of the agricultural sector.

Figure 4: Number of WGS Applications Approved in Ayrshire 1992-2001



Source: Forestry Commission

Figure 5: New Planting within Ayrshire 1992-2001



Source: Forestry Commission

Employment in the Timber Industries

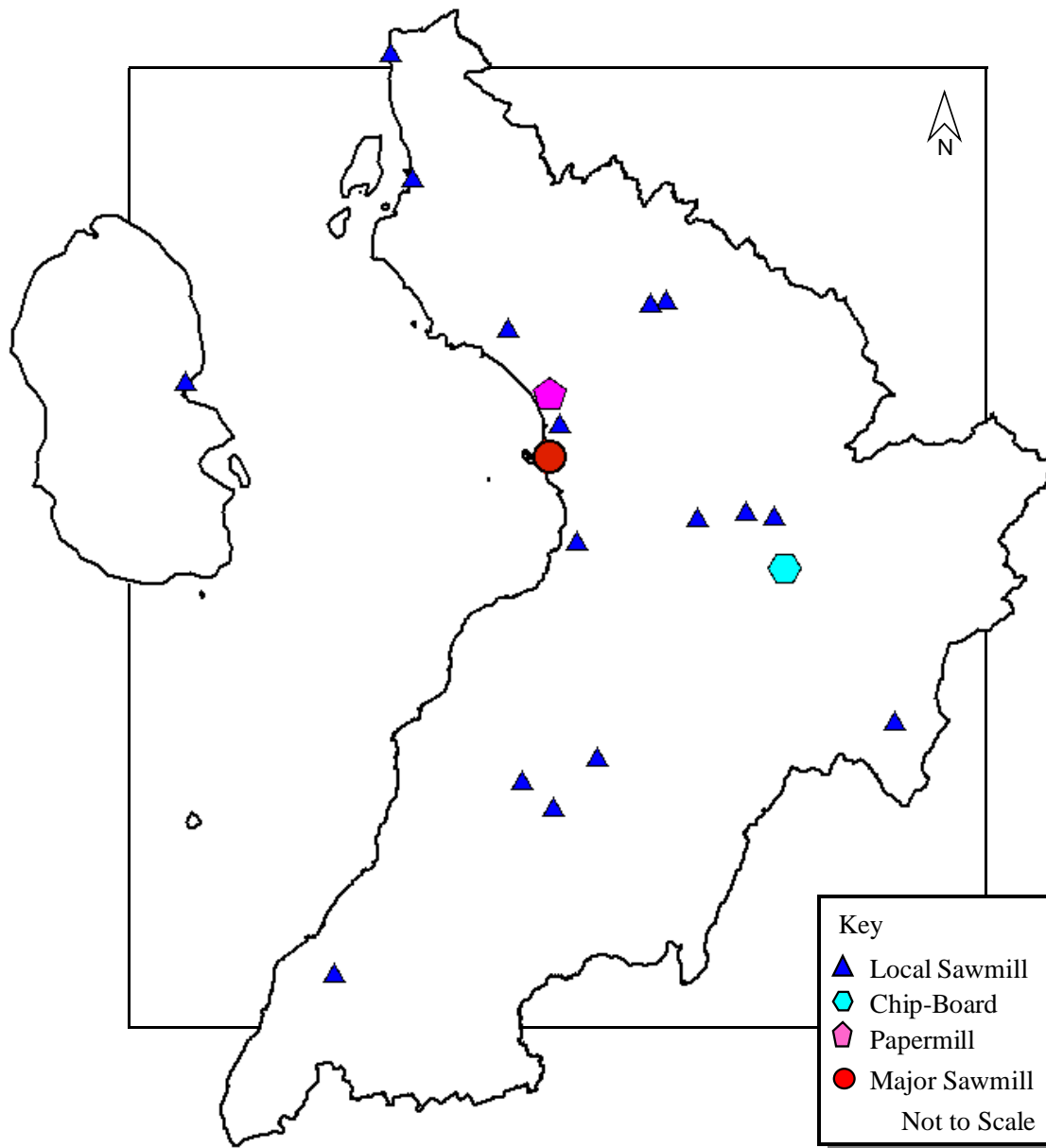
Employment in the forestry industry and other related industries, makes a significant contribution particularly to Ayrshire's rural economy. In 1999 it was estimated that between 2000 and 5000 people were employed in forestry and related industries. Indications are there has been a significant growth in the number of individuals employed within the forestry industry as a whole in Ayrshire over a relatively short time period, with the greatest increase in employment being experienced within the indirect sector as major new plants have come on stream.

It should be noted that the usual methods of collecting employment data do not always give an accurate picture of employment in primary industries such as agriculture and forestry. This is principally due to problems in calculating the numbers of individuals either self-employed or working within the supply, manufacture and distribution chain.

Wood processing industries located in Ayrshire form a major component of the national forest employment resource. As Figure 6 illustrates, the area has a strategic cluster of major processing sites and a large number of small sawmills. Direct employment within these industries accounts for over one-third of the total direct employment of forestry in Ayrshire. The significance of this is increased when processing sites are located within rural areas.

FIGURE 6

WOOD PROCESSING LOCATIONS WITHIN AYRSHIRE



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DEVELOPING A WOODLAND STRATEGY

Issues Report

An Indicative Forestry Strategy for Ayrshire: Issues and Opportunities 2000 Report was published in March 2000. This Report acted as the starting point for consultation toward developing a new Indicative Forestry Strategy for Ayrshire. The document provided background information about forestry as well as identifying a number of issues and opportunities for future consideration. A wide range of groups including the forestry industry, Central Government Agencies, Local Councils, community councils and environmental interest groups were invited to comment. The consultation resulted in nearly 150 separate comments being made.

Comment and Analysis

The main concerns raised by the consultation process were:

- The future of the forestry industry in Ayrshire should be dependent upon the production of a transparent strategic policy, integrated with other rural land uses and based upon a long term sustainable timber supply;
- Transportation of timber is seen as the main issue in rural areas, is a key constraint to the development of the forestry industry and also creates concern over pedestrian safety and environmental damage on urban lorry routes;
- The protection and maintenance of the environment must be seen as a key priority in the development of a long term forestry strategy;
- The development of an effective range of funding mechanisms is critical to the success of a long term forestry strategy and the rural economy;
- Consultation methods and procedures between local communities and the forestry industry are inappropriate and require revision.
- Opinion was divided as to whether a further refinement of the currently used 'preferred', 'potential' and 'sensitive' land use categories, as defined by the current circular on Indicative Forestry Strategies, was necessary; and

Conclusions to the Issues Process

In considering these responses, and particularly since the publication of "Forests for Scotland, The Scottish Forestry Strategy" by Forestry Commission and "Roots for Growth" by Scottish Executive, the conclusion has been reached that a more wide-ranging strategy document is necessary than previously envisaged in government guidance on Indicative Forestry Strategies. This will allow not only for the landscape sensitivity to forestry to be mapped, but also issues of pro-active forestry management, the economic and social consequences of timber production and transportation of the timber resource to be addressed. **This will be called "An Ayrshire Woodland Strategy".**

National Policy Directions

The development of any strategy does not take place in isolation. "Forests for Scotland", provides the strategic directions for any overall revision of policy and identifies five strategic directions for Scottish forestry. These are:

- To maximise the value to the Scottish economy of the wood resource becoming available for harvesting over the next 20 years;
- To create a diverse forest resource of high quality that will contribute to the economic needs of Scotland throughout the 21st. century and beyond;
- To ensure forestry in Scotland makes a positive contribution to the environment;
- To create the opportunities for more people to enjoy trees, woods and forests; and
- To help communities benefit from woods and forests.

These national strategic directions will be used to guide the development of proposals in Ayrshire.

Indicative Forestry Strategy Guidance

"Forests for Scotland" also provides updated guidance on what is expected of an Indicative Forestry Strategy. The following themes have been identified.

- The contribution that further woodland expansion or restructuring of existing forests can make towards the creation of high quality woodlands serving a variety of purposes;
- Identification of priority areas where woodland expansion might be targeted;
- The balance of forestry against other land uses across the area;
- The limits of acceptable change in areas sensitive to further planting; and
- The extent to which opportunities provided by felling might be used to restructure existing plantations.

Although it is expected that policies in the Ayrshire Woodland Strategy will be more all-embracing the opportunity will be taken to address these themes.

Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan

The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan was prepared by the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan and Transportation Committee on behalf of the three Ayrshire Councils. It was approved by the Scottish Ministers on 24 January 2000. The structure plan contains the land use planning policies and proposals which co-ordinate the requirements for development land with the protection of the environment at a strategic level. The approved policies therefore act as a controlling influence on the preparation of a woodland strategy.

The Plan has four key Statements of Strategic Intent:

- Promotion of economic growth;
- Protection and promotion of the vitality and viability of existing settlements;
- Protection and enhancement of the countryside; and
- Promotion of the principles of sustainable development.

These provide the background to future development in Ayrshire and underpin all other policies. The Statements represent the defining principles against which a woodland strategy must be developed.

Following from the Statements of Strategic Intent there are a wide range of policies that provide the context for all types of land use development in Ayrshire. Although forestry and woodland planting and management are outside the scope of current planning legislation it is expected they will require to conform generally to the approved policies. The policies can be seen in full in the Structure Plan, but the main areas of interaction are:

- A requirement to manage development in the countryside to protect the perceived quality of the environment;
- To promote tourism, including the development of rural recreational opportunity;
- To support the rural economy through measures that encourage partnership with rural communities, support rural business and encourage farming and forestry that is sympathetic to the environment;
- To recognise the importance of landscape characteristics to both quality of life and the environment of Ayrshire;
- A requirement to protect all aspects of biodiversity and cultural heritage; and
- Maximise the use of non road-based freight transport through the development of rail and coastal shipping.

The Challenge

The previous sections provide the context for the development of an Ayrshire Woodland Strategy, incorporating the need to prepare an Indicative Forestry Strategy lost when the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan was approved. In seeking to establish the more broadly based document now considered necessary, the challenge is to produce a strategy that more directly reflects current aspirations. This challenge can be defined in a series of statements of intent which build on existing national and Ayrshire policy.

The challenge is to:

- **deliver an Ayrshire Woodland Strategy through partnership working and by agreement;**
- **enhance biodiversity in the woodland environment;**
- **promote woodland planting and management as a component of economic growth and as a support to the rural economy and agricultural diversification;**
- **where appropriate to utilise woodland planting and management to improve environmental quality;**
- **develop the recreational potential of woodlands for the broader community;**
- **incorporate local communities in future decisions on woodland planting and management in their area;**
- **manage timber transport in ways that reduces environmental concerns and maximises the use of rail and coastal shipping services; and**
- **influence future spending priorities for woodland planting and management.**

If these challenges can be met there is an opportunity to integrate woodland planting and management further into the economic, social and environmental development of Ayrshire.

AYRSHIRE WOODLAND STRATEGY

Vision Statement

The Ayrshire Woodland Strategy is the vehicle by which woodlands policy in Ayrshire will be managed and developed over the coming two decades. In order to communicate a simple structure to the Strategy a vision statement is proposed incorporating the key policy directions.

To develop the woodlands of Ayrshire as a model of integrated and sustainable use of land that supports the local economy, contributes to community well-being and promotes environmental excellence.

The Strategy

In preparing the strategy a number of conclusions have been reached that provide the context for the detailed actions. It must be remembered this is not a planning policy document in the true sense of the word as woodland planting and management is outside planning control.

The intention therefore is to deliver a partnership document between the community and the forestry industry that can be agreed by all parties. As anticipated by government advice, it may be possible to incorporate elements of the strategy into future planning policy, but the main purpose is to reach agreement on the steps necessary to promote the forestry resource. Once approved it is expected that all agencies party to the preparation will adopt the document as formal policy.

It is important to recognise at the outset that the Woodland Strategy has been developed at an all Ayrshire level and at a strategic scale of mapping. The diagrams contained with the text are for indicative purposes only and show general areas where appropriate action might take place. Individual applications for tree planting for whatever category of potential grant aid will require to be judged on an individual basis and at a scale appropriate to the issue under consideration.

In similar vein, Key Actions are presented throughout the document rather than policies. It is felt this recognises the spirit of co-operation between all agencies that will be required to put the strategy into effect. Before completion of the final strategy document “champion agencies” will be defined to take forward the action plan. This should be the subject of discussion during the consultation period.

Underlying Assumptions

In developing previous Indicative Forestry Strategies, the main policy direction concentrated on commercial forestry plantation. With the new national strategy now focused on multi-benefit woodland the Ayrshire Woodland Strategy will focus on policies and priorities for all types of tree planting. In this way it is hoped to focus increased impetus to the restructuring of the commercial forests and to the development of the considerable resource provided by trees in the lowland landscapes.

In order to set a context for the Strategy a number of assumptions have been made. These are:

- Appropriate continued woodland planting is desirable to deliver an integrated economic, environmental and social policy approach;
- The aim is to direct woodlands to the most appropriate locations and promote trees of an appropriate type and scale in balance with other land uses;
- Area capacity to accommodate further woodland planting can be defined through physical, landscape character and ecological thresholds;
- Areas identified through systematic sieving are tested for their economic viability, sustainability and accessibility;
- There should be a focus on all aspects of the timber industry from site identification through to harvesting, extraction, transportation and processing and on woodlands as a broadly based rural economic resource;
- Best practice guidance will be followed throughout the process of site identification, planting, management and harvesting;
- Current regulatory procedures including the UK Forestry Standard will deal with all site-specific environmental concerns; and
- There is a recognition that woodland planting has a role to play in agricultural diversification.

Opportunities for Woodland Planting

The aim of guidance to previous indicative forestry strategies was to effect a balance between the economic needs of the forestry sector and wider social, economic and environmental needs. This aspect remains an important component of the new national advice. One of the key aspects of delivering this balanced strategy, is to ensure that new woodlands integrate, enhance and reflect the diversity and local distinctiveness of the landscape in which they are set.

Previously this was referred to in a diagram showing areas that were "preferred", were a "potential", or were "sensitive" to commercial forestry planting. With the change to a requirement to provide multi-benefit woodland, and the recognition that national strategy applies to all types of woodland planting, there has been considerable discussion on the continued need for this type of diagram. Both the revised government Circular 9/99 and the national strategy both see a continued role for an indicative forestry strategy type of diagram, but consultation at the Issues Report stage was inconclusive.

The conclusion reached is that since there is no direct statutory control of the tree planting process, it is of fundamental importance to give the industry the earliest indication of the areas where there are potentially sensitive issues associated with landscape, the natural, cultural and historic environments and biodiversity. These would apply to development under planning legislation and it seems reasonable that the timber industry should also be

required to take account of these issues. Accordingly the categories of "preferred," "potential" and "sensitive" have been retained in a diagram showing opportunities for woodland planting.

It is important to recognise that no specific target for tree coverage in Ayrshire has been set. Whilst the current figure is below that given as a future national target in "Forests for Scotland", the Forestry Commission policy towards a multi-benefit forest resource allows a flexible approach to planting. The Strategy is based, therefore, on a recognition that some areas may be generally unsuitable through agricultural or environmental concerns and/or may only be appropriate to a certain scale or type of planting. A detailed description of the process is contained in Technical Report No. 24 available separately.

Four specific categories have been identified in line with current government advice and are identified on Diagram 1:

Preferred Areas:

Areas with few constraints for planting other than a requirement to meet the UK Forestry Standard. Further planting of woods and forests will be encouraged.

Potential Areas:

Areas where scale is an issue, and/or where there is at least one significant issue relating to biodiversity, landscape, agriculture and the natural and built environment, but where there is still considerable potential for specific types of wood and forest planting.

Sensitive Areas:

Areas where there is a significant sensitivity either to scale or to other land use priorities, and where the further planting of woods and forests is to be discouraged.

Areas Unsuitable for Planting:

Areas considered unsuitable for wood and forest planting through a variety of reasons - built-up areas, covered by water, too high for economic tree growth etc.

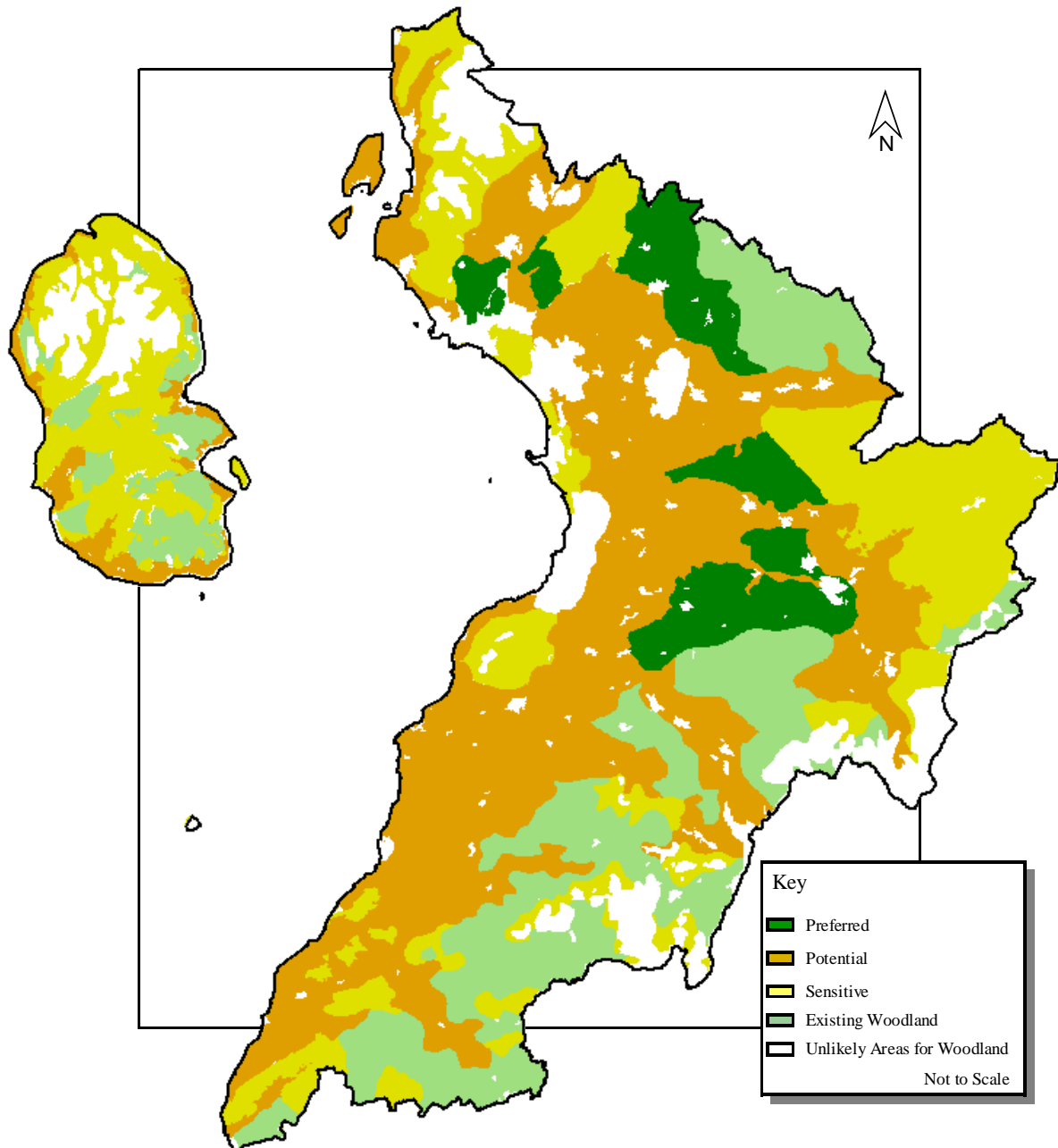
Scale

The concept of scale as applied to categories of sensitivity is not simply a product of the actual size of a planted area. In some areas quite small scale planting can have significant environmental or biodiversity effects, whilst in others it may not. Scale is therefore defined as a relationship between the type and size of planting and the broader landscape context. It will require to be judged on its merits as individual applications for planting come forward. Generally, however, outside the preferred areas large scale planting of uniform species should be resisted.

Action Point	Key Actions
WS1	All agencies responsible for the delivery of woodland management recognise Diagram 1: Opportunities for Woodland Planting. as the basis for effective promotion.

DIAGRAM 1

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND PLANTING



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DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE WOODLAND RESOURCE

The definition of areas showing sensitivity to tree planting fails to deliver the message about the positive contribution that tree planting and the timber industry in general can make to developing economic, social and environmental benefit for the communities in Ayrshire. This section, therefore, explores in some detail action that requires to be taken across a range of issues to promote the integration of woodland planting and management into a broader land utilisation agenda.

The chapter is divided into four main sections:

- Woodland Promotion;
- Transport;
- Environmental Management; and
- Community and Partnership.

Woodland Promotion

Existing Woodland

The significant woodland resource has contributed to the growth and development of an important national cluster of wood processing industries in Ayrshire. 'Roots for Growth,' the Scottish Forest Industries Cluster economic strategy, emphasises the need for a locally defined long-term strategy to assist in securing the forest industry clusters that already exist, whilst also providing certainty to attract further investment. In addition, the Scottish Forestry Strategy promotes replanting of the existing resource to help sustain rural employment, increase biodiversity and provide access and recreational opportunities.

If Ayrshire is to maintain its current economic position in the wood processing industry and develop a sustainable resource, there is a need to promote the replanting of existing woodlands both now and into the future to provide high quality timber. Careful consideration however, must be given to the design and extent of the replanting of these areas, in order to ensure that they contribute positively to their surrounding environment and landscape. There may be situations, for example peat land or bird interest, where a reduction in the scale of planting or incorporation of more open space should be encouraged.

Action Point	Key Actions
EW1	The principle of replanting on existing woodland as identified on Diagram 2 will generally be accepted.
EW2	There should be a requirement for complete coverage of Forest Design Plans and Forest Plans for all public and private large-scale woodland areas.
EW3	In bringing forward proposals to replant existing woodland the principle of the development of multi-benefit forests to provide greater social, economic and environmental benefits appropriate to the location will be accepted.
EW4	A greater diversity of both species and age structure will be expected within restructured woodlands.
EW5	Additional funding sources will be sought to assist in the restructuring of existing woodlands.

Proposed Large Scale Woodland Planting Areas

The encouragement of new woodlands in areas not previously covered by trees would, in a limited number of areas, bring a number of economic, social and environmental benefits. In addition to providing an additional resource to secure existing forestry industries and the potential to attract further investment, there are parts of Ayrshire that would benefit from enhanced tree cover. This would be particularly applicable if the expansion of multi-purpose woodland is linked to achieving broader environmental and social benefits.

It is recognised, however, that the development of further areas of woodland is an issue that requires careful consideration, not least because current policy does not discriminate in favour of any particular area in the delivery of grant aid and the negative impacts of past large-scale forestry have been well documented. If the areas identified by this strategy for further large scale tree planting are to be successful not only must the regulatory framework developed through sustainable development principles and applied by the Forestry Commission be enforced through best practice guidance but changes to grant aid must be considered. This would have the effect of directing large scale woodland to areas of least sensitivity.

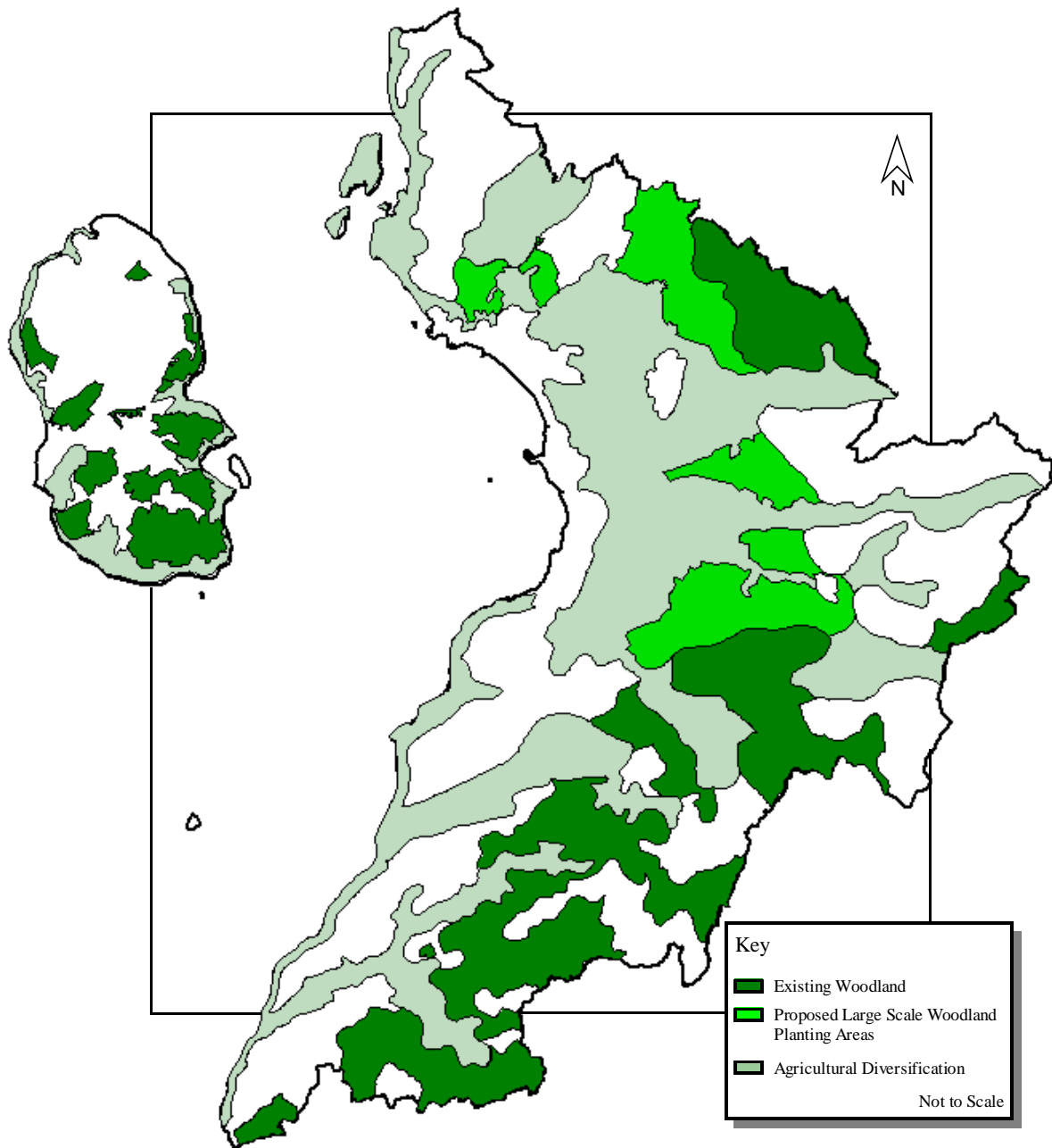
Action Point	Key Actions
NW1	Promote the expansion of large scale woodland in the areas identified on Diagram 2.
NW2	Encourage the development of multi-purpose forests to provide social, economic and environmental benefits for Ayrshire.
NW3	Encourage the targeting of forestry and agricultural funding mechanisms toward areas identified as strategic opportunities for large-scale woodland.
NW4	Encourage diversity of species within new planting areas.

Agricultural Diversification

Historically landscapes have been shaped throughout time by changes in land management practices. The landscape of Ayrshire reflects this trend, being characterised by a rich tapestry of shelterbelts, farm woodlands, field boundaries and hedgerows in the fertile lowland plain and small clusters of woodland in river gorges and valleys in the large expansive hill farming areas of the uplands. However, with the increased financial marginality of the farming industry less emphasis is being placed on maintaining or enhancing areas that provide little immediate financial return, such as boundary hedgerows and trees and shelter belts. This is exacerbated by the crisis in the farming industry that has seen increased pressure for agricultural diversification.

DIAGRAM 2

DEVELOPING THE WOODLAND RESOURCE



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This had a social and economic, as well as an environmental significance. At a national level, the recently finalised Rural Development plan and the Scottish Forestry Strategy both seek to address the significance of woodland planting as a means to integrate rural land management practice and provide an alternative for diversifying farm incomes. The development of a new funding regime in the Rural Development Plan seeks to implement this new integrated approach.

Through an analysis of the Landscape Character Assessment of Ayrshire it is possible to identify areas of the farmed landscape that should be prioritised to restore neglected habitats and develop a more integrated rural setting by for example the establishment of native planting and shelterbelts, the re-establishment of hedgerows, etc.

Action Point	Key Actions
AD1	Promote the areas identified on Diagram 2 for agricultural diversification by appropriate woodland planting.
AD2	Prioritise forestry and agricultural funding mechanisms toward the establishment and management of appropriate woodlands within the areas identified.

Wood Processing Locations

Employment in the forestry industry makes an important contribution to the economy. Within Ayrshire between 2,000 and 5,000 people are either directly or in-directly employed in a range of industries from tree planting and harvesting to pulp and chip board production. These jobs become significant when located within rural areas.

As forests mature and the harvesting of timber increases, the numbers of individuals employed within the industry is also expected to increase. Due to the long-term nature of wood production, the world price of timber and the vagaries of the international processing sector, it is impossible to predict with any degree of accuracy the future possibility of further large scale processing plants locating within Ayrshire. Nevertheless, the Scottish Enterprise Cluster Study saw a cause for optimism in growth of the processing sector generally in Scotland and Ayrshire is particularly well placed to attract further industries.

In order to maximise the potential for the existing forestry cluster to expand or to attract additional industrial processes, sufficient sites are required to be identified and safe-guarded as part of a strategic industrial site resource. The following strategic sites have been identified as having the potential for future timber processing locations:

- Hunterston;
- Caledonian Paper Factory Extension;
- Ardeer; and
- Former Barony Colliery, Auchinleck

Whilst other types of development should not be discouraged it is recognised these locations provide the right type of locational criteria for development of further processing industries. A detailed consideration will, however, be required to be undertaken in bringing forward individual proposal for any site (see Diagram 3).

Action Point	Key Actions
WP1	Identify and secure a range of well-connected and serviceable sites for further forestry sector development.
WP2	Seek to protect and promote existing forestry sector sites.

Renewable Energy

Increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources is one of the key objectives of both the UK and Scottish Climate Change Programmes. This forms part of a wider government initiative to develop a more environmentally sustainable pattern of development, focusing on reducing the overall demand for energy and moving away from fossil fuel as the dominant generation source. The re-dressing of this balance will go some way to reducing greenhouse gas emissions thereby meeting the UK emission targets.

Biomass crops, substandard timber and waste products from harvesting have increasingly become used as alternative materials to produce energy. Biomass energy plants can be relatively small in size and include portable applications. A variety of plant can increase flexibility, reduce costs and allows generation close to harvesting locations. In addition to energy generation, biomass also has the capacity to be incorporated within a heat recovery system providing both electricity and heat for local communities. The development of these schemes in rural areas has an important role to play in sustaining employment and skills in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Action Point	Key Actions
RE1	Encourage the appropriate development of biomass and forest waste energy facilities within Ayrshire.
RE2	Promote the development of renewable energy plants in rural areas close to the existing timber supply.

Transport

Agreed Routes

The movement of timber throughout the local road network and particularly on unclassified roads, can generate significant problems for the local council road maintenance programmes and create tension between timber haulage companies and rural communities. In representations to the Issues Report the transportation of timber through urban areas was also highlighted as a major safety and environmental concern.

The identification of a set of routes on which timber lorries would agree to haul timber would have a number of benefits. These routes would allow local authorities to prioritise investment in traffic management and road safety. A dialogue between the timber growers, timber hauliers and local councils through the Ayrshire Timber Transport Forum is already proving of benefit to the development of these agreed routes and this should be continued, promoted and discussed with local communities most affected. It is to be hoped that additional funding can be established through a national timber transport mapping exercise for the development of agreed transport routes (see next section).

Action Point	Key Actions
AR1	Develop a set of agreed Timber Transport Routes for Ayrshire.
AR2	Seek sufficient investment to mitigate any safety or environmental impacts associated with the movement of timber.
AR3	Ensure the final version of the agreed Timber Transport Routes is discussed with communities.

Transport of the Forest Resource

The efficient transport of felled timber is critical to the successful development of the timber industry. 'Roots for Growth' identified access to the timber resource, the low level of past investment in the network, and the lack of an integrated land use and transport strategy as the key issues affecting the viability of timber extraction. As the estimated area of woodland available for felling is set to triple in Ayrshire during the next 20 years this could result resulting in an increase of loaded haulage movements from 13,500 to 44,200 per annum.

In attempting to alleviate these concerns an innovative project to model the national movement of timber by road, rail and sea was undertaken by Scottish Enterprise. Underpinning this study was the development of an interactive computer model (LAMA). The development of LAMA would allow detailed analysis of the capital and environmental costs associated with timber transport over total transport network to be determined. South-west Scotland has been chosen to pilot this study due to the extent of its woodland resource and concerns raised in regard to the ability of its transport infrastructure to sustain the projected level of extraction (see Diagram 3). These findings will form a sound foundation to lobby the Scottish Executive for additional investment to maintain the forest industry in rural areas.

Action Point	Key Actions
TR1	Undertake a strategic modelling assessment of the transport network in South-West Scotland to cope with existing and future demands of the timber industry.
TR2	Use the results of the Local Area Modelling Assessment to lobby for additional resources to develop an effective timber transport network.

The Promotion of Alternative Timber Transport Modes

The development of a more integrated forms of freight haulage is promoted through the Government's 'Travel Choices for Scotland – White Paper' (1998) and the subsequent expansion of the Freight Facilities Grant. The promotion of alternatives to road haulage combined with improvements to overall logistics, is considered one of the key ways to mitigate environmental concerns and reduce the operating costs associated with timber transport. The costs associated with the promotion and running of alternative modes such as railheads or sea ports often make it impractical to develop without government funded assistance.

The geography of Ayrshire combined with the existing transport network presents the opportunity to develop a more integrated approach to transport timber via road, rail and sea and this will be examined through the use of the LAMA project. Although unlikely to influence the short term operational requirements of timber transport this assessment is necessary to identify potential locations for possible alternative transport and safeguard their future use. In this regard it should be noted that the development of Ayr Harbour for timber

transport, the grant to the Forestry Commission for increasing the use of off public road timber transport routes and the proposed railhead at Barrhill are important pointers for the future.

Action Point	Key Actions
AT1	Promote the identification and development of alternative methods to transport timber, other than road.
AT2	Integrate and model scenarios using these alternative transport forms to develop the most efficient transport network for timber extraction.
AT3	Lobby the Scottish Executive to support the construction and development of the most efficient method of timber transport.

Environmental Management

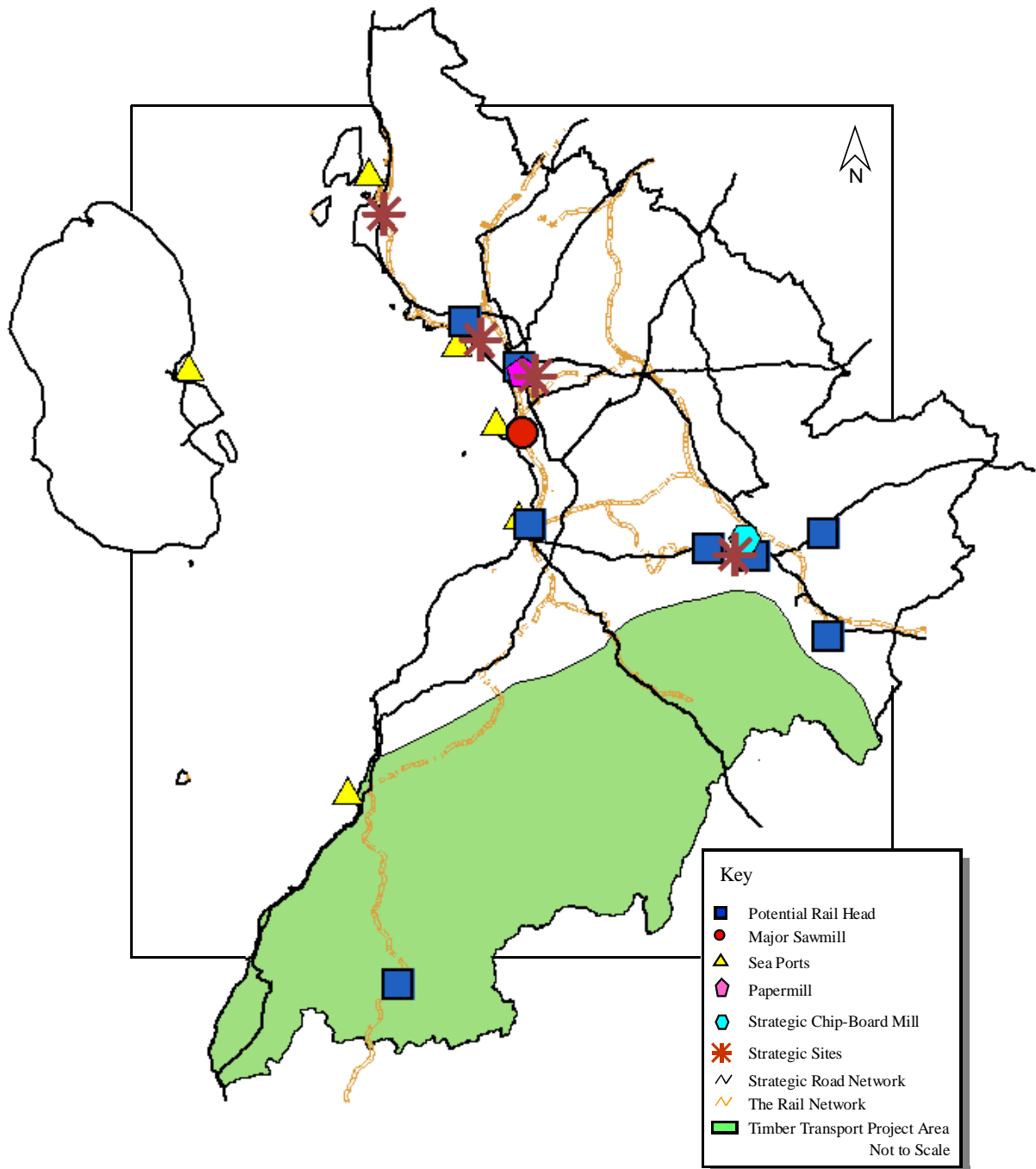
Forest Restructuring

The restructuring of maturing forests within the upland areas of Ayrshire provides opportunities to bring the forests up to today's environmental standards and create multi-purpose woodlands providing a range of environmental, economic and social benefits.

The problems associated with the Ayrshire plantations of the 1960s, 70s and early 80s reflect those found generally throughout Scotland, such as poor landscape quality, a lack of formal recreational access and poor biodiversity value. In addition, a number of watercourses and lochs within Ayrshire have been identified as suffering from varying degrees of acidification. This is caused by the inability of the underlying geology to neutralise the effects of atmospheric pollution. Large areas of woodland within these catchments can aggravate the impact through the trees ability to capture more of the atmospheric pollutants.

Through an assessment of these woodlands it is possible to identify those that exhibit a mix of concerns and where there should be a priority for restructuring. This work should be undertaken as a priority in conjunction with the Forestry Commission, Councils, private timber growers and the environmental agencies.

DIAGRAM 3

TRANSPORT & ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE
TIMBER INDUSTRY

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Action Point	Key Actions
FR1	In conjunction with Forestry Commission, Councils, private timber growers and other environmental agencies to draw up and promote a series of priority areas for restructuring, renewal and re-investment.
FR2	Proposals for restructuring should attempt to overcome the identified issues of landscape, biodiversity, water quality and access relating to the site, ensuring the forest meets the UK Forestry Standards.

Native and Broadleaf Woodlands

The ancient and semi-natural woodland of Ayrshire accounts for approximately 3% of the total land area. This woodland is found principally in areas that are difficult to farm and is concentrated along Ayrshire's river and gorge valleys flowing from the lowlands to the coast. Although concentrated in small pockets throughout the lowlands, many of these groups of trees are isolated and do not form coherent wildlife corridors yet have considerable potential for the development of biodiversity. Their protection and promotion should be a priority in the forthcoming Local Biodiversity Action Plan and would be in line with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Action Point	Key Actions
NB1	Safeguard, extend and enhance areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland.
NB2	Identify potential habitat networks between isolated groupings of ancient or semi-natural woodland and adopt development strategies for their renewal and development.
NB3	To redirect existing funding or seek additional funding to manage and protect native and broadleaf woodland.

Policy Woodlands

Policy woodlands are collections of trees planted primarily for ornamental reasons perhaps developed over hundreds of years, and found today principally clustering around country houses. They are predominantly mixed woodlands and include significant numbers of exotic broad-leaved or coniferous trees, planted to accentuate their location, colour and texture. Due

to the long life span of most trees, the woodlands appear ageless and unchanging. Yet as a result of reduced management resources, particularly since the end of the First World War, many have fallen into decay. This is reflected in the large number of over mature trees and uncontrolled infestation of rhododendron bushes within many areas. Policy woods, represent, however, a major contribution to the landscape because of their location, distribution and careful design.

There are 13 policy woodlands identified through the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes maintained by Scottish Natural Heritage. However, the actual number of designed landscapes identified by the Garden History Society is considered to be much greater. These areas offer the opportunity, due to their relative proximity to major settlements and a concentration of rare and unusual species, for recreation and environmental education. Additionally, designed landscapes also act as havens for a wide range of wildlife and plant communities, many of which are significant in biodiversity terms.

As with native and broadleaf woodlands their development and promotion should be seen as a priority in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and must be regarded as a candidate for additional funding.

Action Point	Key Actions
PW1	Ensure woodland planting within Designed Landscapes reflects the character and spirit of the design.
PW2	Encourage the development of long term management plans for the sustainable use of designed landscapes and historic gardens.
PW3	Target funding to the preparation of management plans, and the maintenance and restoration of designed landscapes/ policy woodlands.

Renewing Landscapes

Woodland Planting Initiative

Tree planting can make a valuable contribution towards the restoration and renewal of landscapes. The Landscape Character Assessment, recognised that the quality of a number of landscapes within Ayrshire had been altered significantly as a result of land management and past mineral extraction. The Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan has sought to limit the impact of mineral operations upon the landscape and local communities, through prescribing a limited area of search for future extraction. Woodland, along with providing important habitats for wildlife and increasing landscape quality, can also regenerate soil condition and restore economic value to land.

Through a review of the Landscape Character Assessment combined with an analysis of sites identified within the Council's Vacant and Derelict Land Surveys and the Macauley Land

Use Research Institute Land Capability for Forestry and Agriculture (1988), it is possible to identify concentrations of landscapes of very poor quality which would benefit from woodland planting and require investment. The following areas have been identified as requiring improvement:

- Garnock Valley;
- Upper Doon Valley; and
- Cronberry/ New Cumnock Area.

A77/M77 Corridor

The upgrading of the A77 corridor to motorway standard, together with the identification of the general area as suitable for large-scale woodland planting, presents a major opportunity for landscape renewal. The management of the existing A77 and B764 and the opening of the area to potentially more general access can be seen as a chance to facilitate greater tourism and recreation in the area.

Mineral Extraction

Mineral extraction, together with woodland planting, are the two greatest land uses changes that occur today in the rural area. Ensuring that during the submission of proposals, extractive industries consider the planting of woodland as an appropriate afteruse will help mitigate the problems associated with past industrial operations in the countryside. New woodland in these locations could actually be designed to improve the current landscape quality and biodiversity value. It is suggested that a project should identify priority locations for woodland to be provided on former mineral extraction areas.

Action Point	Key Actions
RL1	Promote the identified locations on Diagram 4 as priority areas for landscape renewal through woodland planting.
RL2	Integrate landscape renewal in the proposed upgrading of the A77 and bring forward a landscape proposal for the area.
RL3	Explore the opportunities presented by the restoration of former opencast coal areas to plant new woodland and promote new landscape structures.
RL4	Encourage early discussion with the Forestry Commission on planning applications for mineral extraction to establish the contribution tree planting could make to restoration schemes.
RL5	Prioritise forestry and agricultural funding mechanisms toward areas identified as strategic renewal opportunities.
RL6	Engage fully with local communities most likely to be effected during the formulation of woodland proposals.

Urban Fringe Woodland

Woodland on the edge of urban areas creates a number of recreational and social opportunities. Respondents to the Issues Report also supported the creation of urban woodlands to enhance the amenity and settings of communities either experiencing high levels of development pressure or being set within landscapes of poor quality.

Following an assessment of woodland within 800m of urban settlement boundaries a number of communities are identified that would benefit from urban edge woodland planting. The development of woodland at these locations would provide additional access and recreational opportunities for local residents and increase the landscape quality of their immediate surroundings. The following areas have been identified as priorities for urban fringe woodland:

- Ardrossan/ Saltcoats/ Stevenston North
- Irvine
- Kilmarnock

- Stewarton
- Prestwick/Troon gap
- Auchinleck
- Muirkirk
- Mauchline

Action Point	Key Actions
UF1	Promote areas identified for urban fringe woodland.
UF2	Encourage the development of long term management plans for urban fringe woodland, focusing on maximising community benefit .
UF3	Target funding to the development of urban fringe woodlands.

Tourism and Recreation

The quality and diversity of the landscape of Ayrshire and access to it is one of the main attractions to visitors. ‘Forests for Scotland’ acknowledges the important role forestry has in attracting a wide variety of tourists and recognises that much more needs to be achieved to sustain and enhance tourist facilities. Representations made to the ‘Issues Report’ identifies the development of access routes close to major centres of population and the reinstatement and protection of footpath networks throughout the wooded area as major opportunities.

There is considerable scope to increase both informal and formal recreation within large-scale woodlands. The Galloway Forest Park currently is the only established location for large-scale woodland tourist and recreation based activities. However, no formal recreational strategy has been developed. In other parts of Ayrshire potential for the development of enhanced recreational facilities exists at Whitelee Forest, due to its proximity to the Glasgow Conurbation, and Southern Arran, as a result of the development of visitor facilities.

Enhanced public access and improved recreational opportunities will require additional investment in visitor facilities, and changes in access legislation and forestry management regimes. Legislation before the Scottish Parliament will meet some of these requirements through the provision of the right of reasonable access and delegating greater responsibility to public agencies to help people enjoy the countryside. Access is currently permitted to all publicly owned forests and indeed many privately owned forests also make provision. There are, however, some areas where access will remain an issue and will merit further consideration.

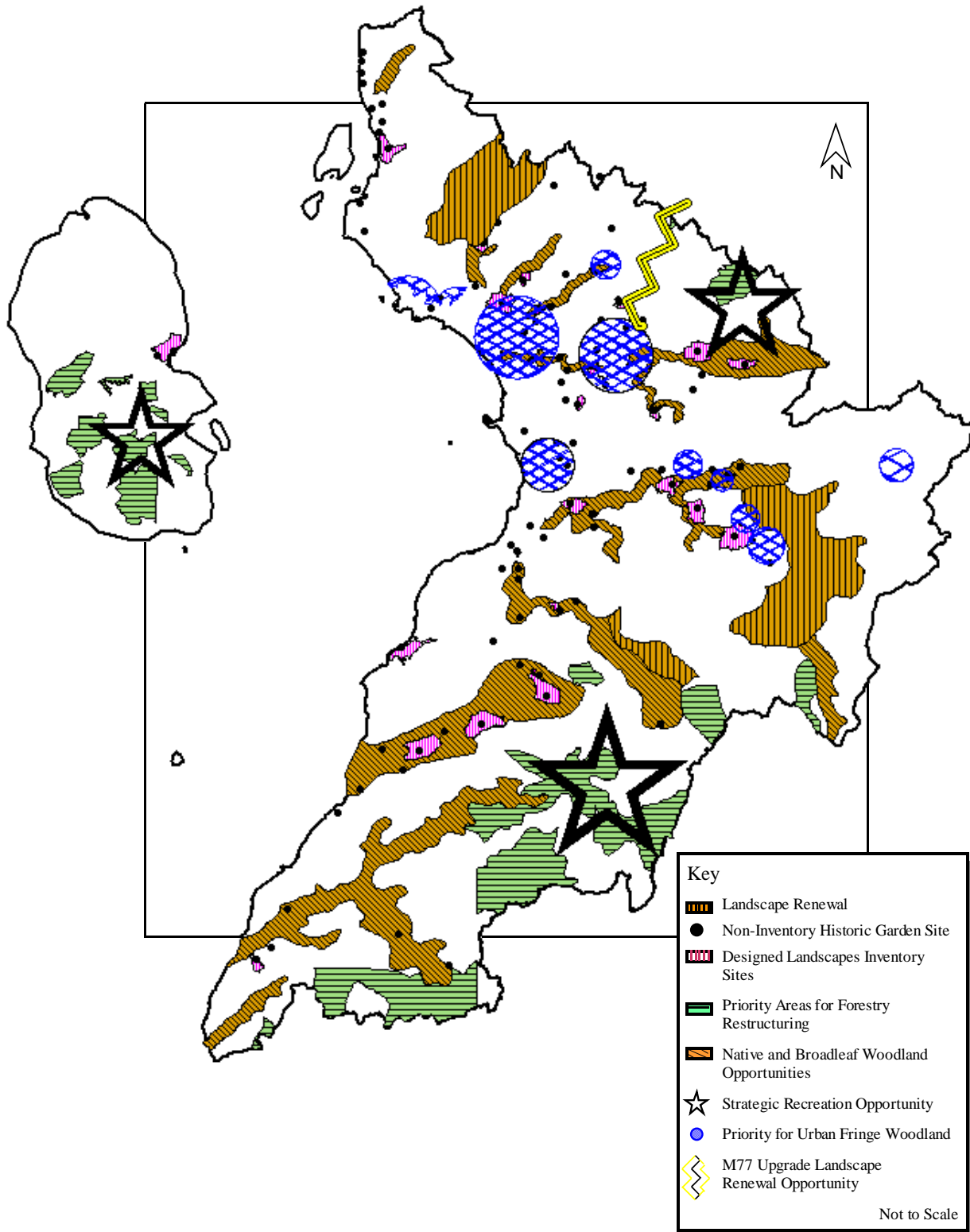
If the rural economy is to benefit from individuals visiting the countryside then associations between the landscape and visitor must be maintained and enhanced in order to attract greater numbers. The national cycle network, national tourist routes and footpath network present in Ayrshire all have an important role to play. Views from these routes will be significant to the overall impression of the area to the visitor, and can be significant in supporting the use of rural services. The judicious use of tree planting along these routes should be supported and developed.

- The national cycle network (Sustrans);
- The National Tourist Route;
A713 from Dumfries and Galloway to Ayr
- Public Rights of Way; and
- The identified footpath network.

Action Point	Key Actions
TO1	Extend the tourism and recreation opportunities within the Galloway Forest Park.
TO2	Investigate the feasibility of developing the woodland areas of Southern Arran and Whitelee Forest to maximise their potential recreation and tourist opportunity.
TO3	Develop formal recreation strategies within appropriate large-scale woodlands.
TO4	Identify funding sources to allow the further development and management of facilities in the Galloway Forest Park, Southern Arran and Whitelee Forest.
TO5	Protect and enhance the landscape setting and visual amenity of the recreation and tourist network.
TO6	Target funding toward the development of forest recreation and tourist opportunities.

DIAGRAM 4

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



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Community and Partnership

Forestry Employment

Employment within the forest sector can help to support and sustain fragile rural communities. ‘Forests for Scotland’ indicates that a lack of employment opportunities in rural areas can lead to under-employment and rural depopulation. Forestry employment has also been undergoing a period of consolidation in recent years. The felling and harvesting of the timber has become increasingly mechanised and as a result of economies of scale a small number of contractors now operate over large areas.

East Ayrshire Woodlands Ltd run a number of initiatives to train and develop long term unemployed individuals in land based industries. This initiative is jointly funded by a variety of public and private organisations and provides opportunities for approximately 25 individuals per year. Upon completion of training, 50% of students obtain full time employment. However, the initiative it is focused only in East Ayrshire.

The further extension of this project to cover all of Ayrshire would assist in the development of a skilled rural employment base, whilst reducing dependence on the agricultural or mineral extraction sectors to maintain rural employment/ population. Commitment from the forestry sector is required to ensure that local procurement, employment and contracting is sustainable and provides viable opportunities for trained individuals. Contractors must be competitive and be trained to operate to current environmental and safety standards.

However, forests and their associated industries have a vital role to play in developing the whole rural economy not just in terms of forestry employment. The development of the timber resource in those areas where it is the dominant land use should be geared towards achieving the maximum benefit for the local community from a full range of activities. This would include not only direct forestry employment but also tourism, recreational and access opportunities, sawmills, energy from wood schemes etc.

Action Point	Key Actions
FE1	Develop a co-ordinated forest and woodland training programme to cover the whole of Ayrshire.
FE2	Promote the procurement and retention of local forest employment within rural areas.
FE3	Identify priority areas to develop and support wood and woodland related employment.

Community Woodland

Woodlands owned or managed by a local community empower individuals to set priorities for their own area. The Scottish Forest Strategy identifies the need to ensure all sections of the community have the opportunity to visit and enjoy forests and also promotes the development of community-owned woodlands.

A number of communities have already developed community woodlands, either attached or adjacent to their settlements. The motivation to establish and develop local woodlands differs between communities, with each one having specific environmental, recreational and/or educational objectives. The identification of communities with poor woodland provision immediately adjacent gives an indication of where community woodland might be beneficial. It may be that the areas identified for the prioritisation of urban fringe woodland could form the basis for the development of community woodland initiative.

Action Point	Key Actions
CW1	Assist local communities to develop, manage and design woodlands.
CW2	Target financial and human resources to develop community woodlands.

Community Participation

Forestry proposals create legitimate concerns within local communities. The revised Scottish Forestry Strategy recognises the tension that can result from any proposed changes to the landscape and calls for an increase in dialogue between local communities and the forest sector. This potential tension between the timber industry and local communities was also acknowledged in representations made at the 'Issues Report' stage.

The physical planting of woodland remains outwith the control of planning authorities. Nevertheless, a more effective dialogue at both the strategic and local levels can ensure that concerns raised by local communities are given appropriate consideration. The Ayrshire Woodland Strategy seeks to identify the most suitable locations for various types and scales of woodland planting. The integration of public consultation at the earliest opportunity during its formulation will help to reduce conflict and delay during determination of woodland grant applications.

However, the Strategy can only provide general strategic guidance. Planting applications of all types at the local level will continue to raise significant issues upon submission. The Forestry Commission together with the timber industry and local councils should explore methods to increase the effectiveness of consultation and dialogue with local communities.

Action Point	Key Actions
CP1	Agree mechanisms between the Forestry Industry and local communities for increasing public involvement in woodland planting and management.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Contributors to Success

Section Opportunity	Key Actions	Sector	Private					Public
		Contributor	Growers	Agents/ Managers	Contractors	Processors	Industry Associations	AJSPTC
Ayrshire Woodland Strategy	WS1							
Woodland Promotion	EW1							
	EW2							
	EW3							
	EW4							
	EW5							
	NW1							
	NW2							
	NW3							
	NW4							
	AD1							
	AD2							
	WP1							
	WP2							
	RE1							
	RE2							
Transport	AR1							
	AR2							
	AR3							
	TR1							
	TR2							
	AT1							
	AT2							
	AT3							
Environmental Management	FR1							
	FR2							
	NB1							
	NB2							
	NB3							
	PW1							
	PW2							
	PW3							
	RL1							
	RL2							
	RL3							
	RL4							
	RL5							
	RL6							
	UF1							
	UF2							
	UF3							
TO1								

Appendix 2: Funding Agencies

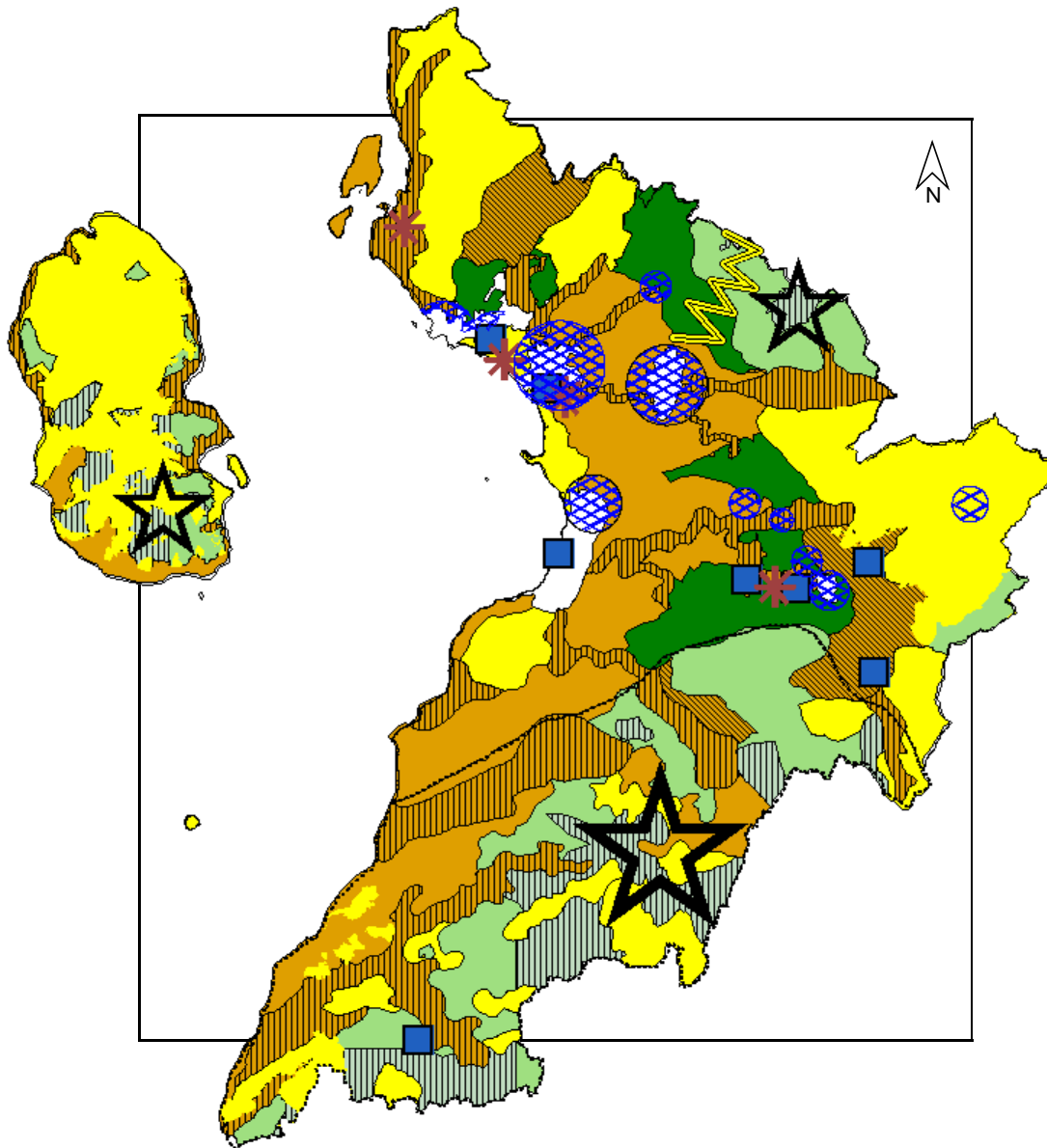
Appendix 3: Monitoring

Strategic Opportunity	Target	Indicator	Impact	Information Source	Monitoring Period	Reliability
Woodland Promotion						
Transport						
Environmental Management						
Community and Partnership						

Appendix 4: Action Programme

Appendix 5: Bibliography

AYRSHIRE WOODLAND STRATEGY



Key					
	Unlikely Areas for Woodland		Preferred Area for Large Scale Woodland Expansion		Timber Transport Project Area
	Potential Area for Further Woodland		Existing Woodland		Strategic Recreation Opportunity
	Potential Area for Native Woodland Enhancement and Management		Existing Woodland – Priority for Restructuring		Priority for Urban Fringe Woodland
	Potential Area for Environmental Enhancement through Woodland Development		Sensitive to Further Afforestation		M77 Upgrade Landscape Renewal Opportunity
			Potential Railhead		Strategic Sites
					Not to Scale

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