

# The Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework



Rural Development Initiatives Ltd  
Crichiebank Business Centre  
Mill Road, Inverurie  
Aberdeenshire  
AB51 5NQ

<b>CONTENTS</b>		<i>Page No.</i>
<b>SECTION 1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>1.1 Purpose</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>1.2 Audience</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>1.3 Policy Context</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>1.4 The Scottish Forestry Strategy</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SECTION 2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND TO WOODLAND &amp; FORESTRY IN ANGUS</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SECTION 3</b>	<b>STRATEGIC THEMES</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>3.1 Key Strategic Themes for Angus</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>SECTION 4</b>	<b>THE POTENTIAL FOR WOODLAND EXPANSION IN ANGUS</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>4.1 Summary Conclusions</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>4.2 Spatial Background</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>SECTION 5</b>	<b>DELIVERING THE WOODLAND &amp; FORESTRY FRAMEWORK IN ANGUS</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>5.1 Key Theme 1: Climate Change</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>5.2 Key Theme 2: Timber</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>5.3 Key Theme 3: Business Development</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>5.4 Key Theme 4: Community Development</b>	<b>33</b>
	<b>5.5 Key Theme 5: Access &amp; Health</b>	<b>36</b>
	<b>5.6 Key Theme 6: Environmental Quality</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>5.7 Key Theme 7: Biodiversity</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>FIGURES</b>	<b>Figure 1. Stakeholder Consultation Process</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Figure 2. Land Categories</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>Figure 3. Opportunities for Woodland Expansion</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>MAPS</b>	<b>Map 1 . Existing Woodland Cover</b>	<b>12</b>
	<b>Map 2. Woodland Type</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Map 3. Land Designations</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Map 4. Land Capability for Forestry</b>	<b>22</b>
	<b>Map 5. Opportunities for Woodland Expansion</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>See separate reference</b>	<b>45</b>

## Introduction

Forests and woodland across Angus already make a significant contribution to the attractive landscape of the county. They also provide a wealth of benefits to the local population and visitors to Angus, to the local economy and to Angus' environmental quality and biodiversity. In addition, on many of the traditional estates, where forestry has historically been incorporated into land use practices, forests and woodlands have provided woodland habitats for sporting gain and form an important part of the sporting landscape.

Agriculture plays a major role in terms of Angus' land-use, economy and population distribution. Covering nearly 190,000 Ha, the county's agricultural land constitutes 87%<sup>1</sup> of the total land area in Angus and also contains 40% of Scotland's Class 1 agricultural land. Furthermore, in terms of its economic contribution, the county's agricultural output, at 8.9% (£99.2 million), represents a significant proportion of the total GDP of Angus.

Traditional sporting estates also make a significant contribution to the economy of Angus with estates such as Airlie, Dalhousie and Strathmore offering a range of activities including shooting, fishing and deer stalking.

Given therefore, the importance of agriculture and traditional sporting activities to Angus, it is essential to ensure that any developments/strategies for forests and woodland are focused on creating an appropriate balance between, rather than competing with, other existing land-uses.

This Framework has been developed through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders (see **Figure 1; Angus Woodland & Forestry Framework – Stakeholder Consultation Process** below). The objectives of the consultation process have been to: -

- **identify** opportunities
- help key stakeholders **deliver** more from the existing resource
- **increase** the profile of current activities
- **maximise** emerging opportunities
- ensure that the use of woodlands is **consistent** with other policies and strategies

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.angusahead.com/BusinessAngus/Sectors/FarmingForestryandFishing/FarmingSector.asp>



**Figure 1: Angus Woodland & Forestry Framework – Stakeholder Consultation Process**

This document sets a Framework for the next 5 – 10 years and puts forestry into a wider context of rural development within Angus. The Framework is applicable to all of Angus, excluding those areas which are within the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park and as covered by [The Forests of the Cairngorms; Forest and Woodland Framework](#).

## Purpose

The Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework [AWFF] sits alongside other Scottish Government initiatives which aim to enhance the opportunities that woodland and forests can bring. The document is also aligned with the [Angus Single Outcome Agreement](#) (2009-2012).

In line with these initiatives, the overall aims of the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework are to: -

1. Encourage best use of Angus' existing woodland and forestry resource as a means of delivering multiple benefits for residents, local businesses and visitors
2. Focus efforts taken in Angus to help deliver on the outcomes and objectives of the Scottish Forestry Strategy and the Angus Single Outcome Agreement
3. Act as a means of assessing the contribution Angus could make towards delivering national and regional targets
4. Identify existing levels of woodland and forestry related activity in Angus
5. Ensure consistency with other policies and strategies and help guide the implementation of the [Scotland's Land Use Strategy](#)

More specifically and in achieving these aims, it is anticipated that the AWFF will also: -

- encourage sustainable development options and contribute to Angus' sustainable energy and tourism growth targets (e.g. through new woodlands for carbon sequestration, biomass and the use of home-grown timber for building and construction and the identification/development of forest tourism opportunities)
- support wealth generation and contribute to Angus' focus on business growth (e.g. through adding-value locally and identifying/developing forest tourism opportunities)
- promote social inclusion and contribute to Angus' key health improvement targets and lifelong learning priorities (e.g. through increased community engagement with woodlands and forest education initiatives and the development of woods for health and recreation)
- conserve biodiversity and contribute to Angus' priority to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment (e.g. through expansion of Forest Habitat Networks, and protection of key habitat types, species and soils)
- enhance the quality of Angus' landscape character and water resources (e.g. through appropriate woodland creation/expansion and protection of key landscapes and promotion of forestry and woodland's role in flood and catchment management)

## **Audience**

The Angus Woodland & Forestry Framework will help inform policy and action across a wide range of stakeholders including public agencies, private sector businesses and individuals, representative organisations and community partnerships.

## **Policy context**

The Angus Woodland & Forestry Framework is informed by both existing strategies and processes and by the views and aspirations of Angus residents and communities and other stakeholders. It does not seek to reinvent the wheel as it is accepted that the most benefit will be gained from working with existing strategies, objectives and policies.

The Framework falls within the scope, and is supportive of, the Scottish Government's [Scottish Forestry Strategy](#) and also seeks to make reference to and link with the following strategy/guidance documents (and those referred to therein): -

- [Angus Council Community Plan 2007 - 2012](#)
- [A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture](#)
- [Changing our Ways; Scotland's Climate Change Programme](#)
- Dundee Urban Woodland Strategy (in preparation)
- [Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City](#)
- [Natural Heritage Futures for Angus Council Area](#)
- Perth and Kinross Woodland and Forestry Frameworks (in preparation)
- [Rural Development Programme for Scotland 2007 – 2013; the Strategic Plan](#)
- [Scotland River Basin Management Plans](#)
- [Scotland's Biodiversity; It's in Your Hands](#)
- [Single Outcome Agreement for Angus 2009 – 2012](#)
- [South Esk Catchment Management Plan](#)
- The Angus Glens & North East Perthshire Forest Habitat Networks
- [The Forests of The Cairngorms, Cairngorms National Park; Forest and Woodland Framework](#)
- The Tay Area Management Plan 2009 – 2015
- [The Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan \(Tayside LBAP\)](#)
- The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)

In addition to the specific documents listed above, any recommendations made within the Framework for forest management, forest operations and woodland creation would fall within the scope of existing sustainable planning policies, practices and guidance; in particular, the [UK Forestry Standard](#), [UK Woodland Assurance Standard](#), [The Right Tree in the Right Place](#) and associated Guidelines.

As such, the approval and subsequent monitoring of any woodland proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework would primarily be the responsibility of Forestry Commission Scotland who would ensure any actions met prevailing local, regional or national targets.

In relation to the operation of the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework, an Implementation/Action Plan will be developed; the aim of which being to provide a means of prioritising action and monitoring progress.

In developing the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework, it has been recognised that a key link between the opportunities identified in **SECTION 4: DELIVERING THE WOODLAND & FORESTRY FRAMEWORK IN ANGUS** and their potential implementation are the Rural Priorities under the Rural Development Programme for Scotland. **Appendix III - SRDP/Rural Priorities Matrix** provides an indication of SRDP funding measures that could be relevant to the activities described, although it should be noted that that the availability of funding is neither inferred nor implied by the inclusion of the measures listed.

## The Scottish Forestry Strategy

The Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework follows the principles of the [Scottish Forestry Strategy](#) [SFS] but has been developed specifically to meet local needs in Angus and to maximise its unique opportunities.

The SFS is the Scottish Government’s framework for taking forestry forward through the first half of this century and beyond. It sets out a vision of a forestry sector which will be: -

- Diverse and strong;
- In tune with the environment;
- Employing many people in a wide range of enterprises; and
- Providing the many other services and benefits that people need, now and for the future.

Focussing on key priorities over the next decade, the SFS has the following principles, outcomes and objectives: -

<b>Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable development – underpinned by sustainable forest management</li> <li>• Social inclusion - through helping to provide opportunities for all and helping to build stronger communities</li> <li>• Forestry for and with people</li> <li>• Integration with other land uses and businesses</li> </ul>		
<b>Outcomes</b>	Improved health and well-being of people and their communities	Competitive and innovative businesses contributing to the growth of the Scottish economy	High quality, robust and adaptable environment
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist community participation</li> <li>• Enhance opportunities for health and enjoyment</li> <li>• Contribute to growth in learning and skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a more efficient and competitive timber supply chain</li> <li>• Facilitate the development of markets for forest products</li> <li>• Facilitate rural business diversification and development</li> <li>• Increase the contribution of forestry to tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to tackle climate change</li> <li>• Contribute positively to soil, water and air quality</li> <li>• Contribute to landscape quality</li> <li>• Protect and promote the historic environment and cultural heritage</li> <li>• Help to protect and enhance biodiversity</li> </ul>



The Scottish Forestry Strategy identifies seven Key Themes through which the SFS's overall vision will be achieved; these themes being: -

1. Climate Change
2. Timber
3. Business Development
4. Community Development
5. Access & Health
6. Environmental Quality
7. Biodiversity

In developing the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework, each of these Key Themes has been considered in terms of the specific contribution Angus could make and opportunities then highlighted to demonstrate the range of activities that could be undertaken to help Angus assist in the delivery of the Scottish Forestry Strategy.



## Background to Woodland and Forestry in Angus

Forestry is a minor, but important, part of the rural economy in Angus and has traditionally been integrated into estate management, together with more significant farming and sporting interests.

Farming retains a dominant influence on land-use across Angus although mosaics of woodland can be seen to complement agriculture in these areas. Given the high agricultural quality of much of lowland Angus, opportunities for any significant woodland creation are thought to be limited; this being a function of the economic value of farming to the area rather than any environmental constraints. Opportunities do exist however, and would have the potential to bring major landscape, sporting and biodiversity benefits were they to be integrated into traditional land management.

### **The Benefits of Woodlands to Agriculture**

Agriculture plays a dominant role in Angus, where the soil and climate is ideal for growing a wide range of crops. In these areas, whilst large scale woodland creation is neither considered appropriate nor realistic, small scale woodlands can offer a range of benefits to farmers and their land-holdings.

Woodlands create welfare benefits to grazing livestock through the provision of shelter and shade, leading to improved stock, growth quality and lambing/calving rates. In addition, trees can also be grown to help reduce soil loss through wind erosion.

Through the increasing demand for biomass as a means of significantly reducing energy costs, farm woodlands now have significant potential to generate short to medium term income streams and to produce locally-sourced biomass supplies.

Coupled with this, the development of biomass producer groups provides access to information, advice and guidance on management and operational options and timber marketing support.

Grant funding for more traditional farm forestry systems, such as woodland grazing, are now available and provide opportunities for land managers to make a significant contribution to habitat, biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage objectives.

Whilst past large scale commercial planting has often generated conflict between landscape, sporting, conservation and farming interests, modern planting design, with its emphasis on diversity and multi-purpose objectives and land-use integration, can make new woodlands an asset to the landscape, the environment and the landholder.

### **The Benefits of Woodlands to Sporting Estates**

Traditional sporting estates are a significant feature in Angus and such holdings often contain an integral mix of land-use types - grouse moor/deer forest in the higher ground, forestry on the mid ground and farming on the lower ground.

Woodlands enhance the quality of shooting and expand the quarry list, with Roe deer and Sika likely to colonise new woodlands if they are in the area. In addition, the shelter provided offers protection for all deer species, particularly in the Scottish climate, which has the effect of increasing deer weights, head & venison quality and reproductive weights.

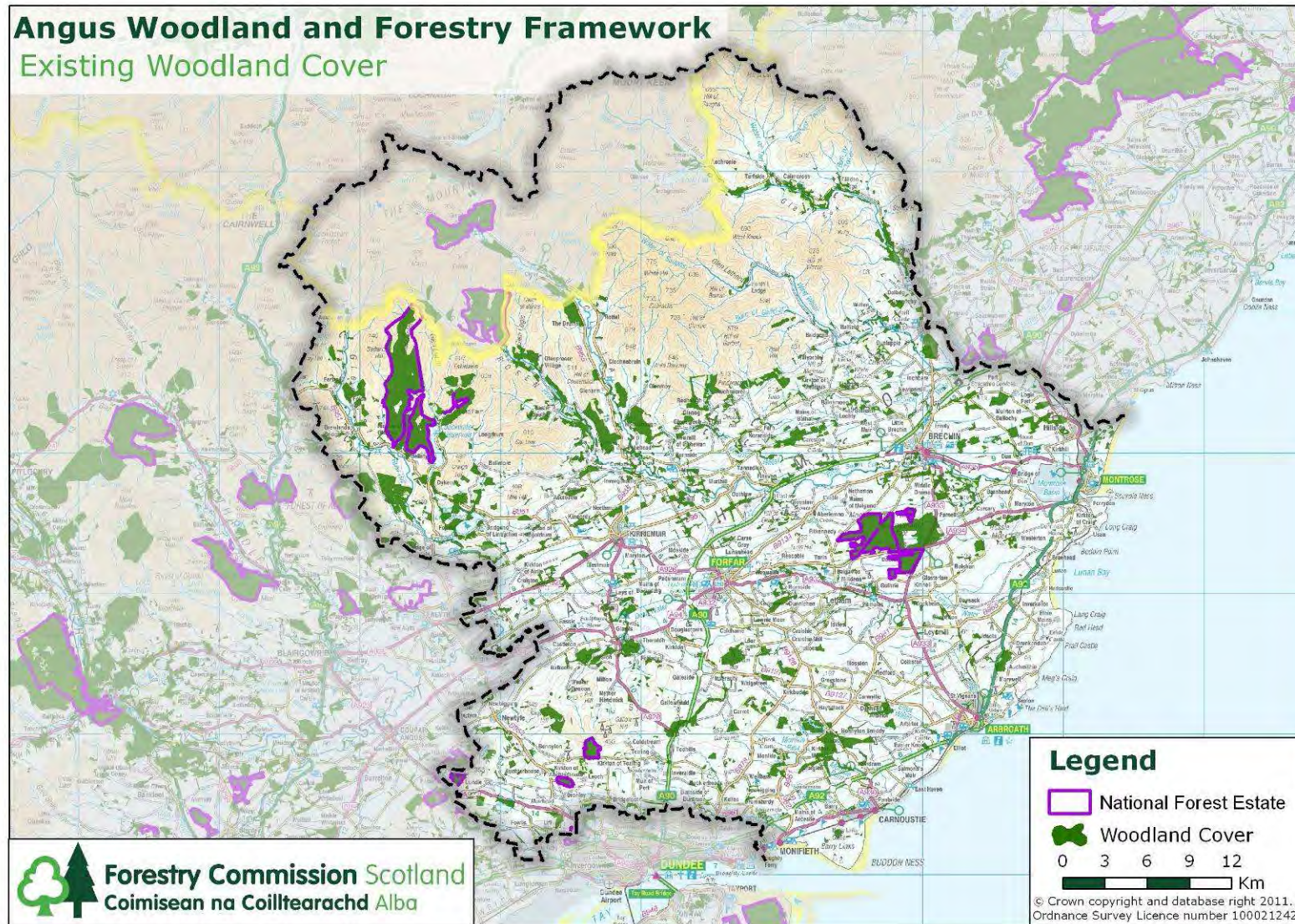
Woodlands also attract substantial planting grants and, through opportunities afforded by the emerging biomass market, have the potential to provide both short and medium term income streams, as well as an increasing and sustainable longer-term traditional timber resource.

In addition, well designed woodlands which combine the right tree and shrub species mix with mosaics of open space and edge habitats, can also add significant value to the landscape.

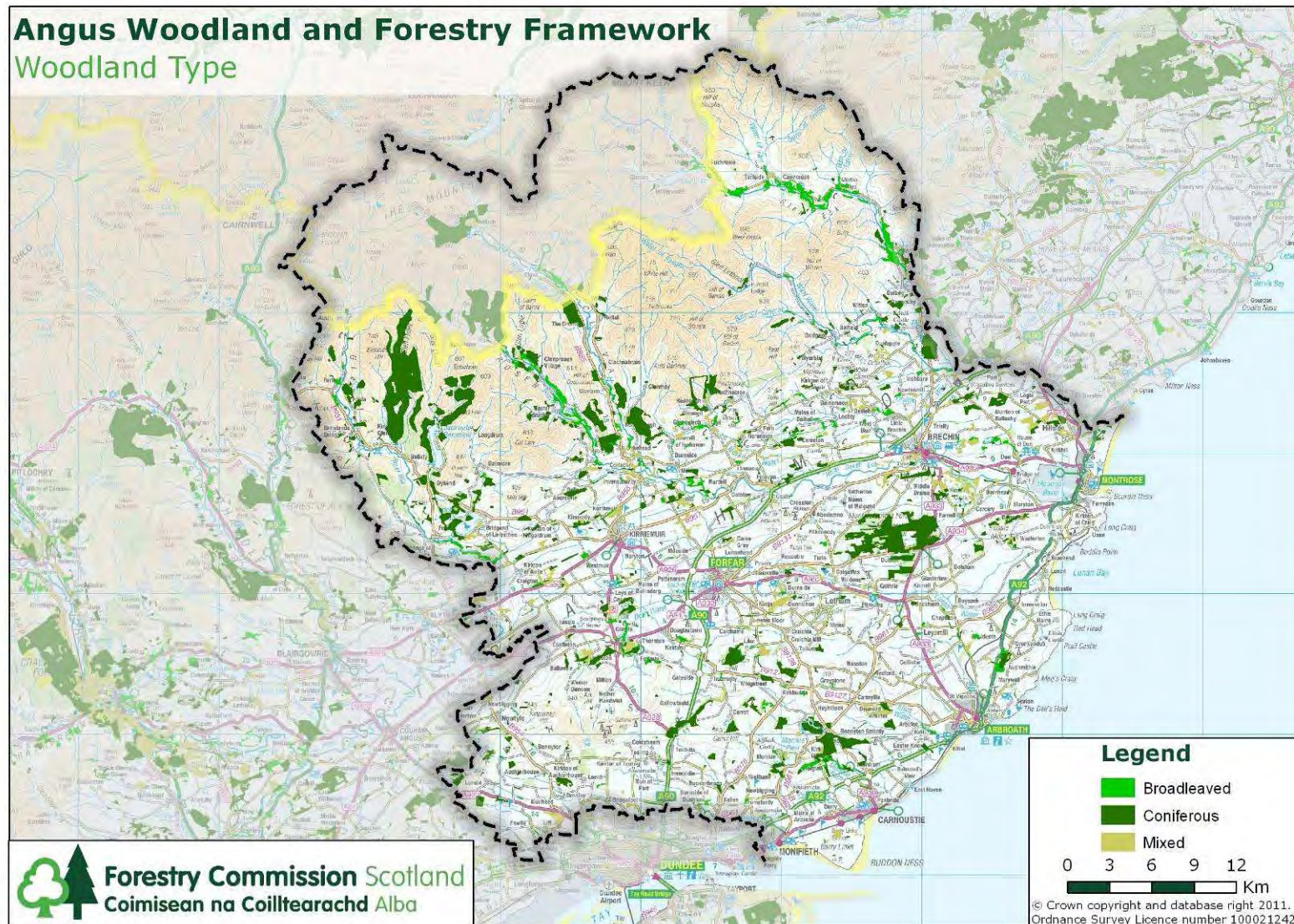
Careful planting of the right species, with appropriate open land designed with the stalker's need for sightlines in mind, and the correct tree density can really improve the stalking experience. In addition, deer glades can also be incorporated in the design, which have the added benefit of creating the perfect environment for fox control.

Angus has a current woodland cover of approximately 10% (21,500 hectares) compared to 17% woodland cover for Scotland as a whole. During the last century, levels of woodland cover have been steadily increasing which, given the scale of this previous expansion, suggest there are continuing opportunities to accommodate woodland creation, where appropriate

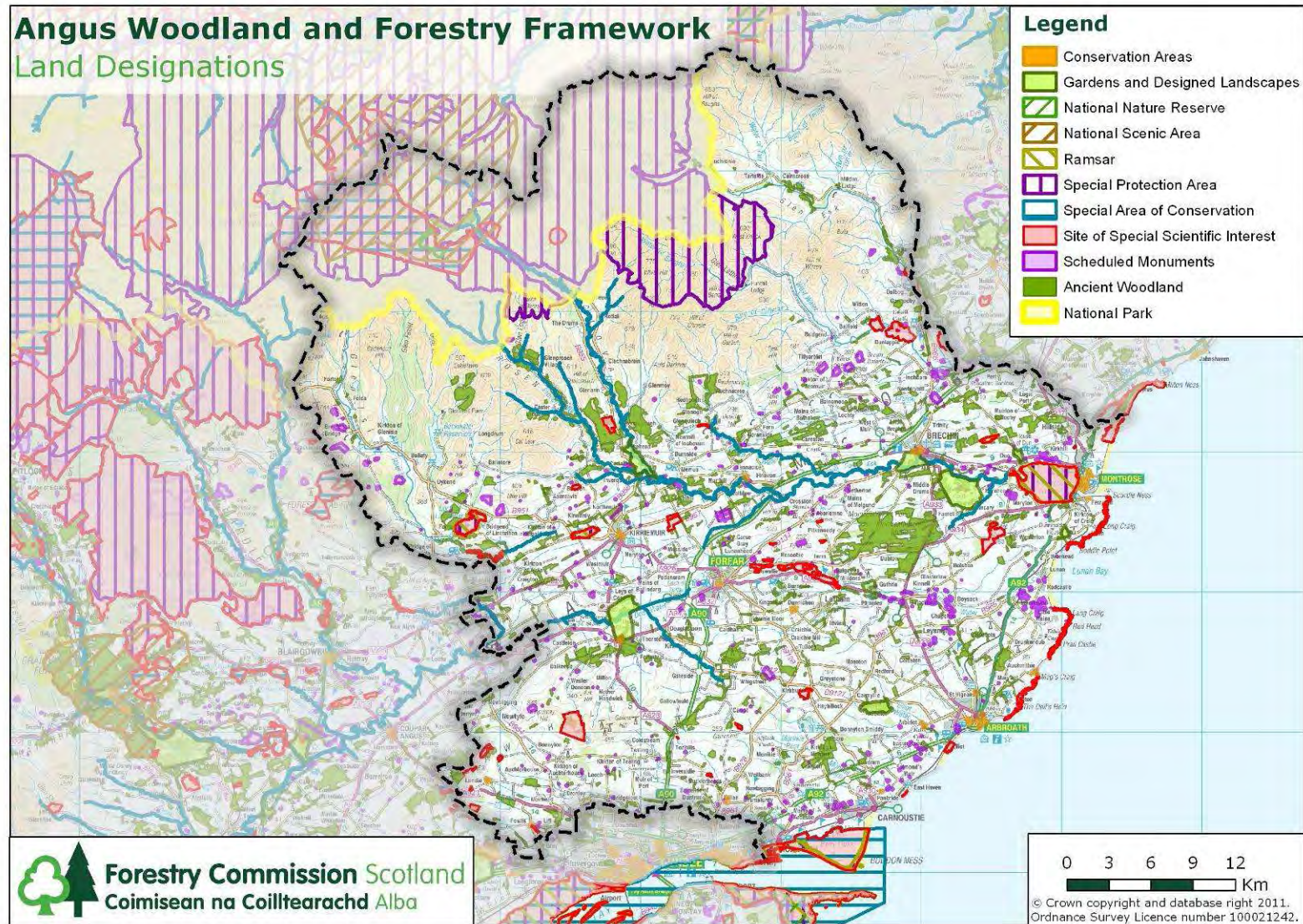
Angus supports a wide range of tree species and contains a mosaic of different forest and woodlands types - large-scale coniferous plantations (e.g. the Angus Glens and Montreathmont), mixed traditional estate woodlands (e.g. Airlie, Glamis and Kinnordy), small-scale mixed lowland farm woodlands and ancient woodland/long established plantation origin sites (e.g. semi-natural birch woodland remnants in Glen Prosen and Glen Esk).



Map 1. Existing Woodland Cover



Map 2. Woodland Type



Map 3. Land Designations

Forests and woodlands are recognised in a number of Angus Council documents as being important contributors to the rural economy, the quality of the natural environment and for providing opportunities for enhancing the quality of life for the people of Angus. These include opportunities through the provision of outdoor recreation in a high-quality landscape.

Woodlands and forests in Angus are important in providing local recreational opportunities to nearby towns and villages (e.g. Caddam Wood, Kirriemuir and the Angus Millennium Forest, Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Monifieth, Montrose)

Timber harvesting has existed at a relatively constant level but is now set to increase over the next 10 years due to the legacy of past planting regimes. Timber prices, especially for fuel and fire wood are increasing due mainly to increased demand for biomass. These developing markets offer real opportunities for providing income from low quality timber and hence for generating cash flows from previously unprofitable small woodlands

Angus currently has timber processing capacity at sites throughout the county, notably those at James Jones & Sons Ltd sawmill (Kirriemuir), Carpenter Oak and Woodland (Lintrathen) and the Angus Biofuels biomass processing centre (Padanaram, Forfar). In addition, circa 75,000 tonnes of timber, mainly small roundwood, is exported from Montrose Port every year<sup>2</sup>

The Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group was established in 1996 to ensure that good liaison is maintained between the forest sector and local roads authorities. This has been particularly important in finding solutions for timber haulage on rural roads, particularly in the Angus Glens

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<sup>2</sup> [Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Strategic Assessment](#); August 2008

## Strategic Themes

### Key Strategic Themes for Angus

It is recognised that in order to maximise opportunities in Angus, forestry and woodland management of both new and existing woodland areas will need to integrate effectively with other land uses - especially farming and traditional sporting activities - and also with sectors such as energy, transport, health, water, education and tourism. Furthermore and in terms of delivery, it is recognised that a partnership approach will be required.

Specifically in terms of complementing Angus' primary agricultural land-use, the Framework will **support** the farming sector by helping to diversify agricultural activities such as managing or creating woodland for stock shelter, sporting and conservation habitats and biomass and carbon capture, particularly where the potential for these activities has been identified in areas of marginal agricultural importance.

In developing the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework, a number of key strategic themes have been identified which focus on specific opportunities and conditions in Angus and also link to the relevant policy documents and initiatives. In turn, these themes will enable the Framework to: -

1. Help Angus reduce the impact of **climate change** and better equip the county to be able to adapt to its changing climate by: -
  - i. Identifying potential areas for new woodland creation/existing woodland restoration
  - ii. Encouraging closer integration between forestry and farming
  - iii. Highlighting opportunities for farm diversification
  - iv. Supporting the continuing use and expansion of biomass for heating
  - v. Promoting the benefits of carbon sequestration through the Woodland Carbon Code
  - vi. Advocating forestry and woodland management practices which reduce carbon loss from soils
  
2. Maximise the benefits of Angus' increasing and sustainable **timber** resource, support **business development** and strengthen the forest industry and its contribution to local economic growth and employment by: -
  - i. Promoting the use of local timber as a substitute for non-renewable materials
  - ii. Identifying business development opportunities
  - iii. Underpinning sustainable forest management



3. Improve the quality of life and well-being of local residents and visitors to Angus by supporting **community development** and encourage an increased community involvement in forestry and woodland initiatives by: -
  - i. Developing opportunities for and expanding the existing woodland resource in and around the towns and villages in Angus as part of an integrated approach to developing a strategic green network
  - ii. Sharing good practice with initiatives in the neighbouring councils of Dundee, Aberdeenshire and Perth & Kinross
  - iii. Investigating opportunities for increased woodland education initiatives
  
4. Encourage responsible **access** to and enjoyment of forests and woodland across Angus and help improve physical and mental **health** of residents by: -
  - i. Highlighting opportunities for expanding sustainable recreational facilities in the Angus Glens & on private land
  - ii. Promoting the development and management of woods for health at Stracathro Hospital
  
5. Protect the **environmental quality** of Angus' natural resources, enhance its landscape and make the most of its unique historic environment by: -
  - i. Helping to deliver habitat enhancement as set out in the [South Esk Catchment Management Plan](#) and wider Tay Area and Scotland River Basin Management Plans
  - ii. Contributing to the management of Angus' landscape character
  - iii. Promoting Angus' rich cultural heritage, particularly in the Angus Glens, historic houses and veteran trees
  
6. Conserve and enhance the county's **biodiversity** and increase an awareness and enjoyment of it by: -
  - i. Consolidating, expanding and linking the Forest Habitat Networks in the Angus Glens, Cairngorms National Park and Eastern Perthshire
  - ii. Highlighting specific woodland types to assist with the protection of key species such as red squirrels and black grouse
  - iii. Promoting the conservation of nationally and locally important habitats as set out in the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and SNH's Natural Heritage Futures

## The Potential for Woodland Expansion in Angus



### Summary Conclusions

In seeking to identify the potential for woodland expansion in Angus, the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework recognises that both woodland expansion and forest management operations have the capacity to generate both positive and negative environmental impacts. In order therefore to ensure that any woodland and forestry expansion and forest management operations protect internationally, nationally and, where appropriate, locally important habitats, species and landscapes, all relevant regulatory, approval, assessment and monitoring processes should be promoted and implemented.

For example, larger schemes and proposals in sensitive areas would be likely to require assessment under the [Environmental Impact Assessment \(Forestry\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 1999](#), as amended. Similarly, any proposals which were likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 sites, such as the River South Esk SAC, would require an appropriate assessment under the [Habitats Regulations](#).

Details of such regulatory and approvals processes are included in **Appendix I: Regulatory & Operational Control**.

The consultation process followed during the development of the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework identified a broad consensus on the desirability to expand the area of woodland within the county (it should be noted that in the context of the AWWF, reference to woodland expansion incorporates the creation of new woodland and the management/restoration of the existing forest and woodland resource).

As expected however, different stakeholders have expressed different ideas as to the most appropriate type and location of woodlands to be created and where woodland expansion should not be considered.

There has been no consensus as to the scale of woodland expansion that might be appropriate within the context of the Scottish Government's target of 25% woodland cover across Scotland by 2050. Given the significance of arable farming on good quality farmland in the lowlands of Angus however and the emphasis on land management for game shooting in the uplands and Angus Glens, it is considered unrealistic to expect, or indeed promote, a major land-use change in these areas to favour forestry in order to achieve 25% woodland cover in Angus.

This is, of course, subject to the relative economic returns/values from the differing land uses rather than of any necessary environmental constraint. For example, in terms of its environmental benefit, better quality farmland could be classed as land with "potential" for forestry even though, in reality and given its economic value, it is unlikely ever to be planted with trees.

The case for arguing that woodland expansion should occur on land currently used for sporting is similar; although historically, much woodland in Scotland has been located on former grouse moor or deer forest where the financial margins between sporting use and forestry are less significant than those between forestry and arable farming. Accordingly, it is not considered inconceivable that such sporting land could support significant new woodlands/expansion of current woodland areas; providing the relative position of financial margins and/or incentives change or where new woodlands could be seen to enhance both the sporting and land-use portfolio of any particular land holding.

A similar situation as that described above already exists in Deeside for example, an area analogous with the Angus Glens. Here it is seen that there is a greater area of productive forestry co-existing with well-managed sporting estates.

It should be noted that over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the area of woodland in Angus more than doubled from 4% to 10% and at an average increase of 150 – 200 Ha per annum; a level of expansion which has helped to shape the attractive landscape that is seen across the county today. Whilst the level of new woodland establishment has dropped to approximately 70 Ha per annum over the last 15 years, it is not considered unreasonable to seek to increase this to previous levels so that the benefits outlined in the Scottish Forestry Strategy can be delivered to both residents and visitors to Angus.

The level of woodland creation in Angus should be subject to review every five to ten years, as too should the overall aims and objectives of the Scottish Forestry Strategy. In addition, any individual woodland creation proposal, regardless of its size, should be assessed on its ability to deliver the strategic priorities highlighted in the Scottish Forestry Strategy and identified specifically in the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework.

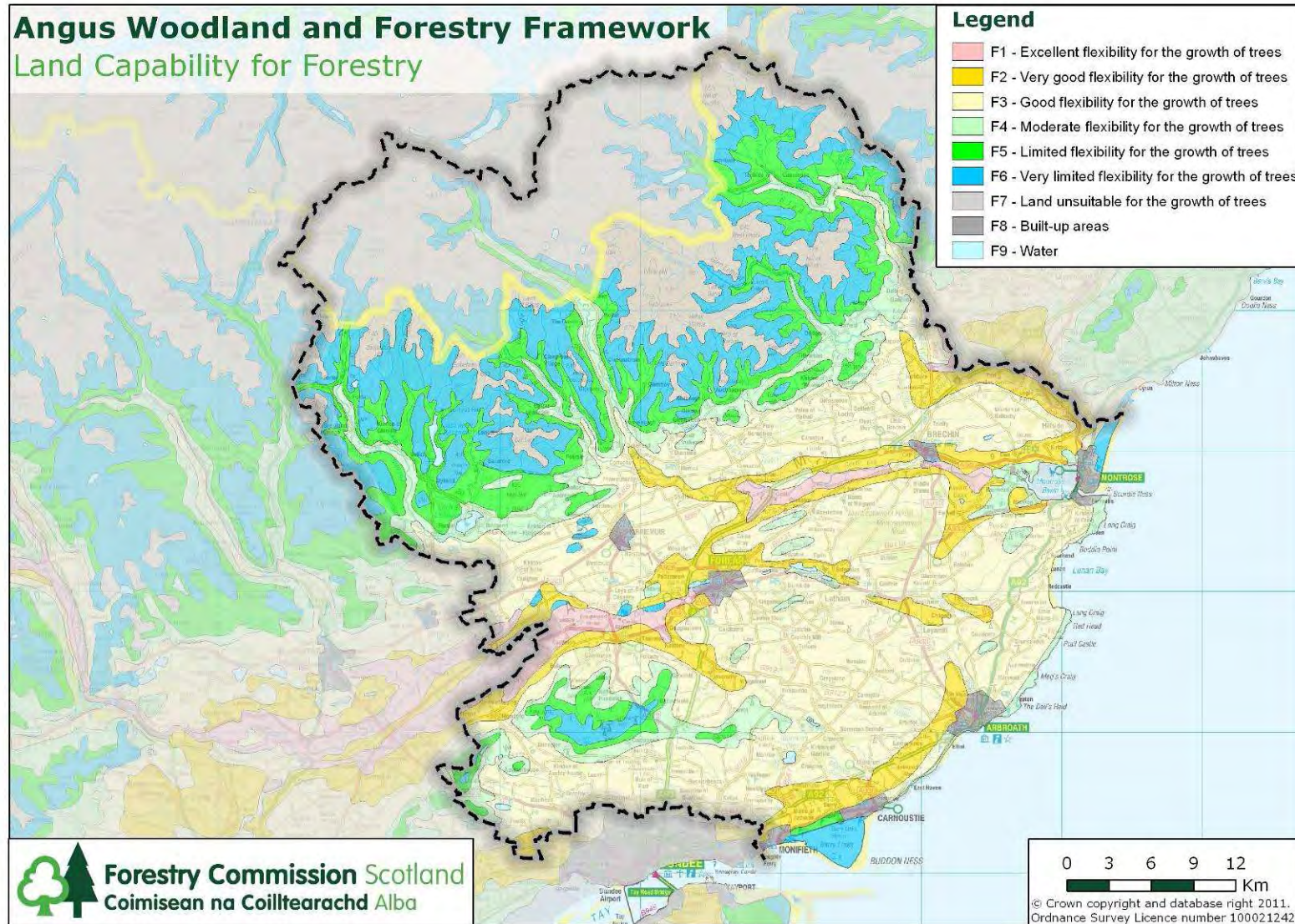
## Spatial Background

In developing the maps used to indicate areas for potential woodland expansion in Angus, the AWFF draws on the recommendations set out in [The Right Tree in the Right Place: Planning for forestry and woodlands](#). More specifically, areas for potential woodland expansion have been split into the following three land categories: -

Land Category	Description
Preferred	<p>Land which offers the greatest scope to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, and hence, to deliver on a very wide range of objectives.</p> <p>Within preferred areas sensitivities are, in general, likely to be limited, and it should be possible to address any particular site specific issues within well designed proposals that meet the UK Forestry Standard and associated guidelines.</p> <p>Future woodland expansion is therefore likely to be focused on preferred areas</p>
Potential	<p>Land which offers considerable potential to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, but where at least one significant sensitivity exists.</p> <p>The extent to which specific proposals in potential areas will be permissible will depend on how well sensitivities can be addressed within the proposals. The design of schemes in such areas will require careful consideration.</p>
Sensitive	<p>Land on which, due to a combination of sensitivities, there is limited scope to accommodate further woodland expansion.</p> <p>Limited woodland expansion is only likely to be possible within sensitive areas where it is of a scale and character which can be accommodated without significant negative impacts and/or where it would positively enhance the features of interest locally.</p>

**Figure 2. Land Categories**

It should be noted that the maps contained within the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework **are indicative only** and that the land-use classifications and designations shown are not exhaustive. Where woodland creation/expansion is to be considered, any plans would need to follow current regulatory, approval, assessment and monitoring processes, including a more detailed assessment of local land-use designations and sensitivities, and industry recognised good practice to ensure compliance with the UK Forestry Standard and associated Guidelines. As stated above, details of such processes are included in **Appendix I: Regulatory & Operational Control**.



Map 4. Land Capability for Forestry

**Map 4. Land Capability for Forestry** above indicates those areas where there are considered to be no geological or biological limitations for forestry. These physical attributes, together with conclusions drawn from the points highlighted above and those made during the consultation process, have been used to identify four main zones across Angus where it is considered there is potential to appropriately target new woodland creation or expansion. These zones are shown on **Map 5. Opportunities for Woodland Expansion** opposite and as listed below and are considered areas where woodland creation or expansion would add desirable economic, environmental and social benefits.

#### **Opportunities for Woodland Expansion**

1. The Angus Glens
2. Woods in and around Towns<sup>3</sup> (locations adjacent to the towns and villages of Angus)
3. Angus Foothills/Sidlaw Hills
4. lowland Angus

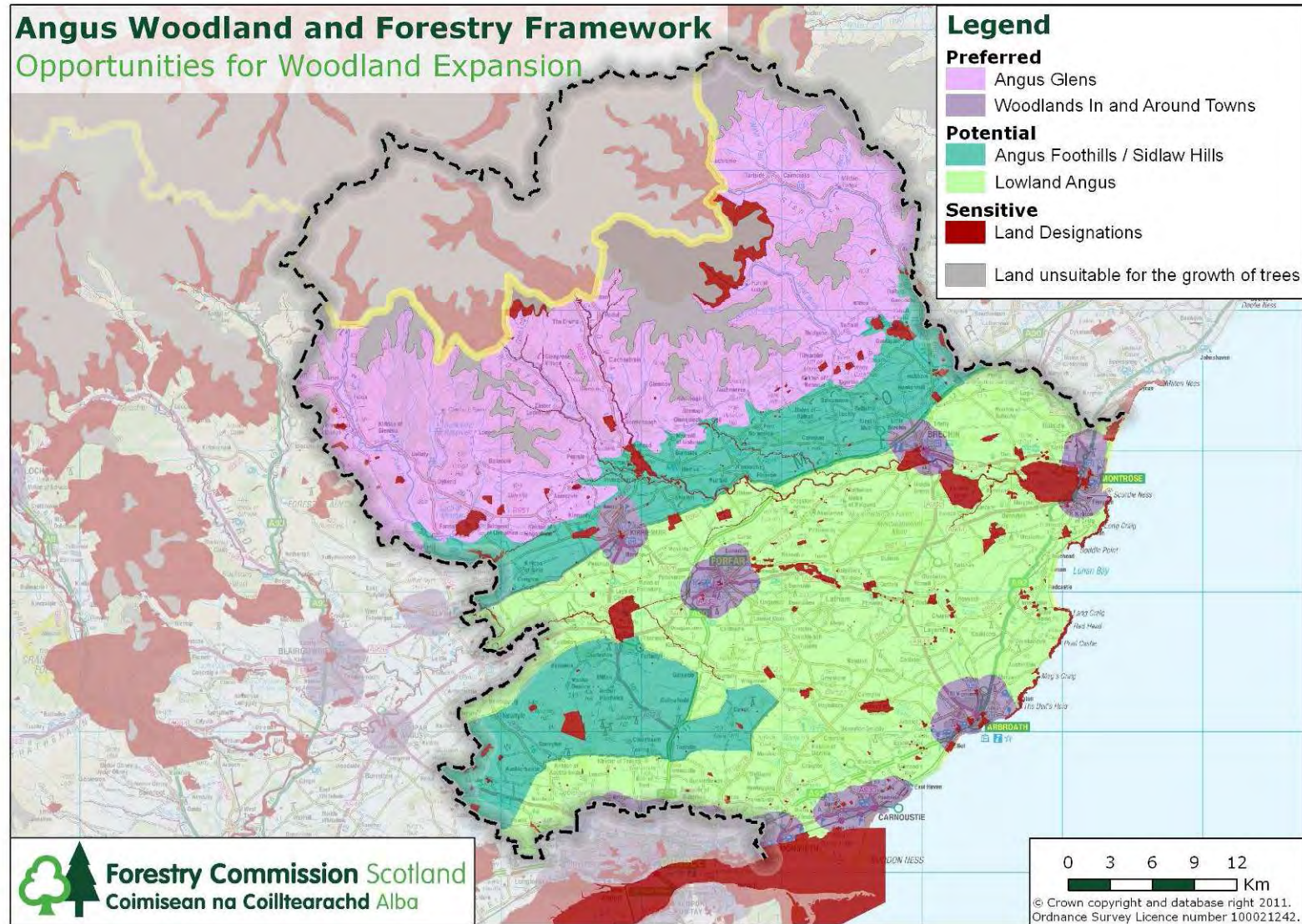
Within these four zones, it is considered that the **Angus Glens** and **Woods in and Around Towns** offer the greatest scope to accommodate future expansion of a range of woodland types, and hence, to deliver on a very wide range of objectives. These two zones are therefore considered to be *preferred land* in terms of woodland creation.

It is considered that the **Angus Foothills/Sidlaw Hills** offer significant potential to accommodate future expansion of a limited range of woodland types. This zone is therefore considered as *potential land* in terms of woodland creation.

Lowland Angus also shows the potential to accommodate expansion of a limited range of woodland types and is therefore considered as *potential land* in terms of woodland creation. **However**, due to the economic importance of Angus' agricultural land-use, it is recognised that little significant woodland creation would be expected to take place in this area. Woodland creation for biodiversity/landscaping/shelter/sporting/water quality purposes however, could appropriately occur.

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<sup>3</sup>Woods in and around Towns [WIAT] applies to activities carried out in woods within 1km settlements with a population of over 2000 people. The Forestry Commission [Land Information Search](#) provides access to a map of all WIAT areas in Scotland



Map 5. Opportunities for Woodland Expansion



As well as showing the preferred and potential zones, **Map 5. Opportunities for Woodland Expansion** above also highlights areas of key environmental, historic or landscape sensitivities and land unsuitable for the growth of trees; individual designations being shown in more detail on **Map 3. Land Designations**. Where key sensitivities are found, as limited woodland expansion is only likely to be possible where it is of a scale and character which can be accommodated without significant negative impacts and/or where it would positively enhance the features of interest locally, these areas are considered as **sensitive land** in terms of woodland creation.

Further details of the preferred and potential woodland expansion zones and suggested woodland types are given in **Figure 3. Opportunities for Woodland Expansion** below. It should be recognised however, that as other types of forest/woodland may be appropriate within each of these zones and equally that the forest/woodland types suggested may not be appropriate across the entire area of each zone, these should be taken to be indicative only.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the classification of “preferred” or “potential” does not automatically mean that any proposal would proceed. Where woodland creation/expansion is recommended, this would need to follow current regulatory, approval, assessment and monitoring processes and industry recognised good practice to ensure compliance with the UK Forestry Standard and associated Guidelines (including the consideration of local sensitivities) and be approved by the relevant regulatory bodies. Details of such processes are included in **Appendix I: Regulatory & Operational Control**.

Potential Woodland Creation Zone	Land Category	Woodland Type
Angus Glens	Preferred	Areas of land suitable for creation of new or restoration of existing woodlands (e.g. forest habitat networks, native and riparian woodland)
Woods in and around Towns	Preferred	Areas where emphasis should be on creating or managing woodlands in and around towns (WIAT)
Angus Foothills/Sidlaw Hills	Potential	Areas where main emphasis should be placed on creating new or managing existing woodlands (e.g. shelterbelts, short rotation forestry) and enhancing landscape features on urban edges
Lowland Angus	Potential	Areas where potential exists for limited woodland creation for biodiversity / landscape / shelter / sporting / water quality objectives

**Figure 3. Opportunities for Woodland Expansion**

## Delivering a Woodland & Forestry Framework in Angus

The Angus Woodland & Forestry Framework mirrors the 7 Key Themes identified in the Scottish Forestry Strategy and outlines how best these Themes could deliver, throughout Angus, the various benefits that forestry and woodlands have to offer. In doing so, the Framework has deliberately sought to be ambitious and aspirational and to act as a means of encouraging the various stakeholders to optimise these benefits.

A range of opportunities has been identified in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders and the section below highlights these; describing the “purpose”, the “why” and the “what needs to be done” in Angus, together with a selection of consultation responses received for each Key Theme.

The opportunities identified are focused on: -

- Encouraging new woodland creation in appropriate areas and for a variety of purposes, including carbon sequestration and quality timber production
- Enhancing the management/restoration of existing woodlands; particularly to enhance biodiversity and woodland habitat connectivity through the development of Forest Habitat Networks
- Promoting opportunities for Woodland in and Around Towns (WIAT) and increasing community involvement in woodland and related activities; particularly in the responsible access and healthy living agendas
- Developing Angus as an exemplar in utilising biomass as a renewable source of heat energy and in developing the necessary support side infrastructure
- Supporting the one larger-scale sawmill in Angus to sustain its key market niche in handling larger dimension logs
- Investigating the potential for more sustainable forest-based tourism, including active pursuits
- Pro-actively pursuing greater integration of forestry with farming and sporting land-use interests
- Promoting the potential contribution of trees and woodlands to the quality of Angus’ cultural heritage
- Supporting key habitats (e.g. woodland SSSIs, hedgerows, tree lines and riparian woodlands) and species (e.g. red squirrels, black grouse and bats); particularly those highlighted in the Tayside LBAP, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, UKBAP and SNH’s Natural Heritage Futures

**Appendix II: Opportunities and Case Studies** contains a more detailed description of the potential opportunities for action, their associated priorities and possible delivery partners as well as case studies of related projects to demonstrate examples of good practice both within Angus and further afield.

## Key Theme 1: Climate Change

### Purpose

- **Increase awareness** of how the forestry sector can help to tackle the threats of climate change
- Ensure that woodlands and the forestry sector meet their full potential in facilitating ecological, economic and social **adaptation to climate change**
- Capture opportunities for forestry and woodlands to help **mitigate climate change** through the use of wood resources and habitat enhancement
- Increase the **amount of carbon locked up** by forestry and woodlands

### Why

- Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing the world today. It also creates great uncertainty and future generations will need flexibility in terms of the type, extent and management of forestry and woodlands
- Forestry makes a contribution to reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by carbon uptake in growing biomass, vegetation and soils and when substituting fossil fuels for biomass and timber and wood products for more energy intensive construction materials; thereby contributing to Angus' Carbon Management Programme targets
- Using wood for fuel (see [www.usewoodfuel.co.uk](http://www.usewoodfuel.co.uk) ) can provide local, sustainable energy and employment as well as reducing timber haulage distances; thereby contributing to Angus' sustainable energy and employability priorities

### What Needs to be Done

#### **Consultation Comments**

*“Restore native woodland habitats and establish productive commercial forests as a “triple win” – climate change adaptation, flooding mitigation and energy/timber resource creation”*

*“Enhance prospects for fuelwood and high quality timber resource creation”*

***Increasing awareness of the forestry sector's contribution***

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

***Adapting to climate change***

- Encourage appropriate woodland expansion in Angus using a range of tree species
- Increase the role of forestry in environmental protection including sustainable flood and catchment management and soil protection

***Mitigating climate change***

- Increase biomass usage by supporting its use for renewable energy and facilitating the continued development of an efficient and reliable biomass supply chain
- Promote increased use of sustainably produced timber and timber products in construction
- Ensure that the council procurement policy promotes sustainable timber sourcing
- Promote increased use of timber and timber products in the council's procurement policy

***Increasing the amount of carbon locked up***

- Support an increase in appropriate new woodland to help achieve the Climate Change Programme targets
- Realise the benefits of carbon sequestration through promotion of the [Woodland Carbon Code](#)
- Follow sustainable forest management principles and guidelines to protect carbon rich soils from potentially damaging activities
- Encourage low impact silvicultural systems and promote woodland regeneration

## Key Theme 2: Timber

### Purpose

- Maximise the economic potential of Angus' timber resources
- Encourage a **predictable and stable supply** of good quality timber
- **Promote the use of timber** as a renewable, versatile raw material
- Minimise the social and environmental **impacts** of timber transport
- Encourage continuing development of the **hardwood timber sector** in Angus

### Why

- Timber is an environmentally friendly, versatile and cost-effective building material. It is renewable and has a very small carbon footprint; thereby contributing to Angus' sustainable energy and Carbon Management Programme targets
- Timber is the primary source of direct revenue for many woodland owners and their main motivation for multi-purpose woodland management
- Some areas of harvesting and replanting have become uneconomic. This represents a threat to forest restructuring and the environmental, employment and downstream economic benefits that go with it
- Forestry can bring much needed economic activity and employment particularly through local, added-value wood processing and marketing; thereby contributing to Angus' business growth and employability priorities

### What Needs to be Done

#### ***Consultation Comments***

*“Develop timber supply contracts with processors to encourage supply chain efficiencies”*

*“Introduce long-term access contracts for improved extraction over FC land”*

*“Allow and encourage hardwood regeneration”*

***Promoting predictable and stable timber supplies***

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

***Promote the use of timber***

- Continue to raise awareness of the potential of wood as a versatile and sustainable raw material through procurement and construction guidance and specific case studies
- Encourage the development of local timber markets, particularly markets based on local timber and biomass

***Increase timber supply chain efficiency***

- Develop the timber transport infrastructure through mechanisms such as the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme and through partnerships such as the Timber Transport Forum and Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group
- Monitor timber movements against Agreed Routes to ensure consultation routes carrying higher volumes of timber are suitably maintained

***Develop the hardwood timber sector***

- Promote silvicultural practices, supply chain development and markets to grow the hardwood timber sector in Angus

## Key Theme 3: Business Development

### Purpose

- Help to enhance the **sustainable economic** basis for Angus
- Support **rural diversification** and help sustain rural communities
- Help add value to the local **tourism** industry and increase the benefits of it to woodland owners and local communities
- Provide opportunities for acquiring new **skills** and experience through forestry and improve the skills base of the local forestry sector

### Why

- Forestry has the potential to bring economic activity and employment to Angus; thereby contributing to Angus' business growth and employability priorities
- Securing the economic viability of forestry underpins sustainable forest management and the delivery of public benefits from woodlands to residents and visitors to Angus
- Diversifying income sources from the provision of forest goods and services brings economic benefits to the wider rural economy; thereby contributing to Angus' business growth priorities
- Woodlands form an important backdrop to the tourism industry; thereby contributing to Angus' tourism growth targets
- Workforce development enhances business competitiveness and productivity; thereby contributing to Angus' business growth and employability priorities

### What Needs to be Done

#### ***Consultation Comments***

*“Develop partnerships between farmers and local communities for woodfuel”*

*“Promote forest tourism”*

*“Support development of small-scale wood users on a co-operative basis”*

***Realising economic potential***

- Ensure the availability of co-ordinated business development support and advice that is specific to the sector
- Promote local co-operation and clusters to secure new markets and increase the business potential of woodland related activity, including sustainable non-timber forest products and services
- Raise the profile of the contribution of forestry to sustainable development

***Contributing to rural diversification***

- Encourage appropriate woodland expansion and management that supports local businesses and provides opportunities for farm diversification
- Promote a joined up approach to land management, identifying economic opportunities from more integrated approaches to land-use
- Explore the increasing potential of local biomass markets to move cost-effective processing closer to the rural timber resource
- Encourage growth of community businesses and social enterprises through the sale or community management of National Forest Estate land, where this is in the public interest

***Tourism***

- Develop the awareness of, and potential for, sustainable forest-based tourism
- Explore ways in which woodland owners can capture direct revenue from tourism
- Capture the full economic potential of the emergence of mountain biking as a major, largely forest-based, activity

***Skills***

- Support the development of flexible modern rural apprenticeships and programmes such as the National Progression Awards and Scottish Trees and Timber Modern Apprenticeship
- Work with Lantra Sector Skills Council and the forest industry to develop work experience opportunities for secondary school pupils and encourage the delivery of a land-based vocational curriculum



## Key Theme 4: Community Development

### Purpose

- Help to improve the **quality of life** and well-being of people across Angus and, where possible and because of their proximity, link in with similar projects in Dundee
- Develop forestry's role in **education and lifelong learning**
- Enhance forestry's **engagement with communities**
- Support **community ownership and management** on the National Forest Estate or public land, where this will bring increased benefits

### Why

- To maintain and improve Angus citizen's overall 93% satisfaction<sup>4</sup> with their quality of life in Angus
- Well designed, well managed woodlands can transform degraded surroundings and brownfield sites into community assets by 'greening and screening', improving environmental quality, increasing attractiveness to inward investment, and providing a landscape framework for new development; thereby contributing to Angus' business growth and environmental priorities
- Woodlands and trees, and their local and historic associations, contribute to providing a strong sense of place and cultural identity
- Woodlands and associated environmental improvements can provide a focus for people to take part in the decisions that shape their lives by providing an 'entry point' for building community cohesion and by increasing the capacity of people to become 'active citizens'
- Woods and associated land can provide opportunities and places for development of community and small business enterprises, and can be a vehicle to develop employability, self-esteem and transferable skills; thereby contributing to Angus' business growth and employability priorities
- Education and lifelong learning are essential parts of sustainable development and woodlands are excellent 'outdoor classrooms' to promote environmental awareness and help to develop positive attitudes to learning among people who feel excluded from traditional forms of education; thereby contributing to Angus' Lifelong Learning outcomes
- People who know more about forestry and its cultural setting are more likely to support it and take better care of Angus' woodlands and wider environment

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.angus.gov.uk/ac/documents/CitizenSurvey09.pdf>

## What Needs to be Done

### ***Consultation Comments***

*“Encourage greater involvement of communities in the control and management of woodland resource”*

*“Develop community-based projects and local partnerships with local communities, colleges and schools to use skills for mutual benefit”*

*“Integrate forest education through Forest Schools”*

### ***Contributing to quality of life***

- Building on the successful Woods In and Around Towns and similar initiatives, provide welcoming and well managed woodlands, in and around communities in Angus, that contribute to quality of life and provide opportunities for exercise, learning, relaxation and enjoyment
- Highlight the use, value and benefits of trees, woodlands and landscapes to planners and developers, and encourage the use of planning processes to secure new community woodland

### ***Education and lifelong learning***

- Encourage the education sector to make greater use of woodlands for outdoor learning
- Increase forestry’s engagement in the secondary as well as the primary school sector by promoting vocational qualifications through the school’s curriculum and by using woodlands to help pupils with special learning needs
- Increase recognition of the forestry sector’s potential to provide transferable skills through forestry related vocational and non-vocational qualifications
- Encourage forestry-based ‘return-to-work’ and volunteering projects
- Help communities develop their local identity through the cultural setting and historic environment in woodlands and through living culture, including the performing arts
- Use woodland to demonstrate forestry’s exemplar role in sustainable development, tackling climate change and conservation of biodiversity
- Highlight benefits of sustainable forest management to habitats, species, landscapes and the wider environment

***Enhancing engagement with communities***

- Maintain constructive involvement with community organisations and those representing small, forestry-related businesses
- Encourage entrepreneurial uses of timber, non-timber forest products and other woodland outputs for local business and employment opportunities
- Promote training and capacity building among community volunteers in forestry skills and organisational management

***Encouraging community ownership and management***

- Increase opportunities for, and help support, community participation in forest ownership and management through mechanisms such as the [National Forest Land Scheme](#), Community Right to Buy and grant support
- Promote need for appropriate planning as a means of recognising the value of and protecting and enhancing habitats, species, landscapes and the wider environment
- Encourage and support the implementation of sustainable forest management practices

## Key Theme 5: Access and Health

### Purpose

- Make responsible **access** to woodlands easier for all sectors of Angus society
- Use woodland access to help improve physical and mental **health** of residents and visitors to Angus
- Provide a greater range of ways for people to **enjoy forests** and the wider woodland environment

### Why

- Woodlands are a naturally therapeutic environment, have a positive effect on anxiety and depression by reducing stress and mental fatigue, are an excellent setting to help people with behavioural and mental health problems and can encourage inactive people to participate in moderate activity; thereby contributing to Angus' health improvement priorities
- Children who visit, or use, woodlands continue to do so as adults
- Enhancing access provides opportunities for countryside sports, education, lifelong learning, job opportunities and income generation. It also has a key role in supporting the tourism sector and rural development; thereby contributing to Angus' lifelong learning, business growth, employability and tourism priorities
- Forests and the wider woodland environment can provide a sense of wonder and enjoyment for all. The historic environment and cultural setting of woodlands helps create a link between people and the past, ancient trees and woodlands capture public imagination, and biodiversity and geodiversity can help stimulate interest in environmental matters
- Recreational use of woodlands can create new business opportunities and income for woodland owners; thereby supporting Angus' business growth and tourism targets

## What Needs to be Done

### ***Consultation Comments***

*“Improve promotion of access to woodland areas”*

*“Support development of mountain bike trail centre within Angus Glens”*

*“Run events in woodlands – e.g. orienteering, equestrian, traditional crafts”*

#### ***Making access easier***

- Target appropriate woodland creation and woodland access improvements in areas where health and community need is greatest and current provision is weak
- Ensure responsible woodland access is supported by planning guidance at all levels
- Maintain Public Rights of Ways through woodlands and take them into account in forest design and management
- Ensure that public access follows the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#), is enforced through relevant council committees and processes and that breaches are followed up appropriately

#### ***Helping to improve Angus’ health***

- Achieve greater recognition for the role of forests and the woodland environment in providing cost-effective health benefits
- Help to meet the health challenges set out in strategies such as [Improving Health in Scotland - the Challenge, Let’s Make Scotland More Active](#) and the National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-Being
- Increase further the impact of the Forestry Commission’s Active Woods campaign by increasing the range and spread of events, and raising awareness of the opportunities to take part
- Encourage more volunteering activity in woodlands

***Enabling people to enjoy forests and the wider woodland environment***

- Focus support for access and recreation provision to priority situations that maximise delivery of public benefits
- Encourage younger audiences by providing more opportunities for natural play in a woodland environment
- Improve the setting, management and interpretation of the historic environment in forests and woodlands
- Encourage and support better interpretation in forests and woodlands as a route to increased awareness of and protection for vulnerable sites, species and the wider environment
- Encourage the sustainable use of woodlands for living heritage, including the performing arts

## Key Theme 6: Environmental Quality

### Purpose

- Help to protect Angus' **water, soil and air** resource
- Contribute to Angus' diverse and attractive **landscapes**
- Help to protect and manage Angus' **historic environment** and promote responsible public access to, and interpretation of, all suitable assets

### Why

- Good environmental quality is essential for Angus' economy, public perception and health and biodiversity
- Conserving environmental quality is a fundamental requirement of sustainable forest management
- Well planned, well managed woodlands can protect and enhance water quality by reducing the potential for watercourse acidification and soil erosion, and by stabilising riverbanks and reducing pollution in run-off. As demonstrated by the work on the River South Esk Catchment, appropriately managed woodlands can also have a positive role in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
- Soils are an important natural resource. They may also contain archaeological structures and artefacts, and evidence of past human activities
- Good air quality is essential to human health. Trees and woodlands contribute, particularly in urban environments, by trapping harmful dust particles and absorbing gases such as sulphur dioxide and ozone
- Angus' tourism industry relies heavily on its world-class scenery, geodiversity and diverse historic environment
- Degraded and unsightly local environments impact on the quality of people's lives, and reduce inward investment
- The historic environment is a unique and irreplaceable source of evidence about life in Angus over thousands of years. It enables present and future generations to better understand and appreciate their place in history. The historic dimension of the landscape also contributes to its quality, character and meaning
- Many designed landscapes and formal gardens contain rare, non-native trees and shrubs, many of which are now threatened in their native habitats

## What Needs to be Done

### ***Consultation Comments***

*“Plant trees to help stabilise river banks”*

*“Declare historical areas in restructuring plans”*

*“Develop mosaic landscape to make countryside more varied and aesthetically pleasing”*

#### ***Protecting water, soil and air resources***

- Protect Angus’ water and soil resources by following sustainable forest management principles and guidelines in all forestry activities
- Adopt measures which will prevent deterioration and enhance the status of water bodies and riparian woodland throughout Angus
- Support the delivery of the South Esk Catchment Management Plan and wider Tay Area and Scotland River Basin Management Plans
- Promote the role of forestry, hedgerows and street trees in ameliorating air pollution

#### ***Contributing to Angus’ landscapes***

- Recognise local landscape characteristics and geodiversity, safeguard sensitive landscapes, and harness the potential of forestry to bring landscape improvements through high standards of forest design and operational planning
- Encourage the restructuring of woodlands to increase structural and species diversity
- Help to diversify farmed landscapes through appropriate woodland expansion and enhancing habitat connectivity
- Encourage the sympathetic planning and succession planting of trees and woodland in sites listed in the [Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes](#), as well as valued individual ancient and heritage trees (e.g. at Glamis and Cortachy)



***Managing the historic environment***

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

## Key Theme 7: Biodiversity

### Purpose

- Help to halt the loss of biodiversity, and continue to reverse previous losses, by:
  - a. **targeted action** for woodland and woodland related priority species and habitats
  - b. **broader actions** at a landscape/ecosystem scale
- **Increase awareness** and public enjoyment of biodiversity, especially close to where people live or visit
- **Improve the knowledge** of, and evidence base for, biodiversity and ensure biodiversity considerations are integrated into decision-making

### Why

- Angus has an important role to play in preserving Scotland's unique biodiversity
- Maintaining or enhancing biodiversity is an integral part of achieving sustainable development
- Native, and especially ancient, semi-natural, woodlands have high biodiversity and historic value
- Fragmentation poses a serious threat to their biological richness and to the species that depend on them
- Angus is currently a stronghold for the red squirrel and such species require special help if they are to survive
- Many woodlands established in the 20th century are composed mainly of non-native tree species, and are, ecologically, still 'young' forests. With age and restructuring these plantations are becoming increasingly diverse, and significant biodiversity gains will arise as this process continues
- Biodiversity is as important to people in urban areas as it is to rural communities and there is great potential to use forests and woodlands in Angus to accrue health, wealth and education benefits for its residents and visitors

## What Needs to be Done

### ***Consultation Comments***

*“Plant new woodlands to link with others forming improved woodland cover and improved habitat”*

*“Develop native hardwood areas in the Glens to provide good habitat for animals”*

*“Plant new woodlands along watercourses”*

#### ***Reverse biodiversity decline by targeted action***

- Restore/improve the condition of native woodlands and associated open habitats through initiatives such as woodland grazing and those identified in the Tayside LBAP, The Angus Glens and Eastern Perthshire Forest Habitat Network and SNH’s Natural Heritage Futures
- Maintain and enhance ancient woodland features in Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and restore to native woodland, at an ecologically appropriate pace, sites with a significant biodiversity legacy or at key locations in native woodland habitat networks where the remnant ancient woodland plant communities are most at risk
- Continue support for the conservation of red squirrels and other key species and habitats identified in the Tayside LBAP, Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and UKBAP
- Restore and expand priority open ground habitats at key locations where the benefits of woodland removal outweigh the benefits of retaining woodland cover

#### ***Reverse biodiversity decline by broader actions***

- Engage in collaborative deer management, following the SNH Deer Management’s [Best Practice Guidance](#), to secure biodiversity objectives and effective woodland management
- Support the creation of native woodlands, prioritised through appropriate evaluation tools, focusing on:
  - a. forest habitat networks and links to wider habitat networks
  - b. riparian woodland
- Continue to diversify multi-benefit planted woodlands through restructuring and the use of an appropriate diversity of silvicultural systems
- Identify opportunities for joint working to deliver SNH’s Natural Heritage Futures Objectives and Actions for the Cairngorm Massif (where appropriate), the Eastern Lowlands and North East Glens

***Increase awareness***

- Ensure that the protection of woodlands of high biodiversity value is a principal consideration in the development management process
- Increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the biodiversity value of all woodland types, and engage more people in woodland conservation, particularly through communities, community forest groups and volunteering networks
- Encourage the education sector to make greater use of woodlands
- Promote awareness of possible threats from invasive exotic species and new and existing pests and pathogens to native species, habitats and wider biodiversity and encourage contingency and succession planning as a means to minimise risks

***Improve knowledge***

- Ensure biodiversity is an integral consideration in all decision-making, best practice guidance and forestry support measures and during forest operations
- Engage effectively with the consultation, planning, implementation and monitoring stages of the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan and SNH Natural Heritage Futures



## Appendices

- I. REGULATORY CONTROL
- II. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION & CASE STUDIES
- III. SRDP/RURAL PRIORITIES MATRIX
- IV. LISTING OF KEY PARTNERS & PREFERRED PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS
- V. REFERENCES
- VI. A3 MAPS

## APPENDIX I – REGULATORY AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL

As highlighted in **Section 4: The Potential for Woodland Expansion in Angus** above, a range of regulatory, approval, assessment and monitoring processes would require to be followed before any woodland creation or expansion could be considered.

The main regulatory and operational processes described below would be applied to any woodland proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework, in order to ensure that any woodland and forestry creation/expansion and forest management operations would protect internationally, nationally and, where appropriate, locally important habitats, species and landscapes, and support the businesses and workforce undertaking them.

### The UK Forestry Standard

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

In the UK, the requirements of sustainable forest management are set out in the [UK Forestry Standard](#) and it is a pre-requisite of any forestry proposals seeking public funding that these requirements are met.

All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the AWFF would therefore be expected to follow the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard and that contained within the operational and management guidelines covering Biodiversity, Climate Change, Historic Environment, Landscape, People, Soils and Water to which it refers.

### The UK Woodland Assurance Standard

The [UK Woodland Assurance Standard](#) is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the UK and whilst a voluntary mechanism, is now the central component of forest certification programmes operated by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and The Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification Programmes (PEFC).

All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the AWFF would be encouraged to meet the verification requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

## Environmental Impact Assessments

Specifically in relation to environmental protection, the UK's forestry [grants and licenses](#) system and the [Environmental Impact Assessment \(Forestry\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 1999](#), as amended, require that where a proposed [forestry project](#) is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, be over a specific [area threshold](#) or within a [sensitive area](#) (e.g. those SSSIs, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Natura 2000 sites and other statutory designations shown on **Map 3: Land Designations** above), an [Environmental Impact Assessment](#) [EIA] be carried out to determine whether consent for the project can be granted.

In Scotland, responsibility for administering the forestry grants and licences system and the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, as amended, falls upon Forestry Commission Scotland, with input from Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and Historic Scotland as statutory consultees.

All proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the AWFF and which met the criteria of an EIA determination, would therefore be required to undergo an assessment under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, as amended.

## Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Furthermore, in relation to the protection of European (Natura) Sites and European Protected species, the [Habitats Regulations](#) require competent authorities to undertake an appropriate Habitats Regulation Appraisal [HRA] in certain circumstances where projects may affect Natura sites.

In Scotland, a competent authority is any Body that has the power to undertake or give consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project and could include Local Authorities, Forestry Commission Scotland or the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. The competent authority, with advice from Scottish Natural Heritage, decides whether appropriate assessment is necessary and carries it out if required.

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

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

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

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

## **Additional Control in Angus**

Any forestry creation, expansion and forest management operations proposed on the National Forest Estate would follow the guidelines laid down in **Section three: delivery and monitoring** of the [Tay Forest District Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013](#).

This section outlines the operating principles that underpin all Forest Enterprise Scotland policies, which include national policies, memoranda and instructions; delivery mechanisms, including thematic and management plans and operational guidance; and monitoring processes, which include those for: -

- Overall standards (i.e. compliance with Forest Plans)
- Conservation
- Archaeology
- Health & safety
- Financial and business planning

Any woodland creation, expansion or management proposals highlighted in, or developed as a result of, the AWFF on land owned by other public agencies or the private sector and which met public sector funding criteria would be regulated under the Scottish forestry grants and licenses process as described above.



**APPENDIX II – OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION & CASE STUDIES**

<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS – CLIMATE CHANGE</b>			
<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>  (1 – High 2 – Medium 3 – Low)	<b>KEY PARTNERS</b>  & <i>(preferred partnership organisations)</i>
<b>KT1.1</b>	Encourage appropriate woodland creation through three key expansion areas (see also <b>Map 5: Opportunities for Woodland Expansion</b> ): -  1. The Angus Glens - well designed multi-purpose woodlands and habitat networks  2. Foothills of the Angus Glens – smaller scale woodlands which integrate with existing agricultural activities and enhance the landscape  3. In and around towns and villages of Angus – primarily woodlands for public access, recreation and education and where access and greening the urban environment will be the key drivers	1  1  1	<b>FCS</b>  <b>FCS</b>  <b>FCS/AC</b>
<b>KT1.2</b>	Consider zoning/prioritisation of development land for appropriate woodland creation where there is potential associated planning gain and multiple public and environmental benefits demonstrated	3	<b>AC</b>
<b>KT1.3</b>	Review current research and investigate potential for short rotation forestry on small scale pilot areas	2	<b>FCS</b>
<b>KT1.4</b>	Ensure use of biomass for heating and local timber for low carbon construction, is included in tender specifications initiated by public bodies in Angus	1	<b>AC</b>
<b>KT1.5</b>	Publicise examples of current use of timber by biomass sector in Angus amongst key target audiences	2	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>
<b>KT1.6</b>	Facilitate series of timber utilisation training/information sessions for targeted end users, particularly architects and specifiers	2	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>
<b>KT1.7</b>	Collaborate with the BioNES network to promote opportunities for bioenergy and carbon trading	3	<b>FCS</b>
<b>KT1.8</b>	Develop co-ordinated forest & woodland plans for all council-owned woodland	1	<b>AC</b>

<b>KT1.9</b>	Promote low impact silvicultural systems and regeneration in publically owned woodlands	3	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>
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## **CASE STUDY – Short Rotation Forestry**

### **Westfield, Alyth**

Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) involves planting trees and harvesting them when they have reached a size of approximately 10 – 20cm at breast height in order to produce a source of timber for on-farm processing or woodfuel. As the cycle usually takes between 8 and 20 years, SRF offers a cropping regime with a timescale between that of Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) – a single-objective crop requiring a 5 – 6 year commitment - and conventional forestry – a multi-purpose crop which is managed on a 40+ year rotation.

Westfield is located on former agricultural land (a mixture of arable and improved grassland) and required minimum cultivation for conversion to SRF. 25 Ha of Sycamore, Ash and Birch were machine planted in spring 2010 at a stocking density of 5000 stems per hectare. A smaller, 5 Ha, site was also planted with specialist species including Eucalyptus, Hybrid poplar, Sweet chestnut and Hybrid larch.

When grown as a source of woodfuel, SRF offers numerous on-farm benefits including: -

- Less susceptibility to market fluctuations
- Cost competitiveness with oil
- Exemption from fuel VAT charges
- Carbon neutrality
- Provision of timber products for local markets
- Sporting, shelter and amenity benefits
- Utilisation of existing labour and machinery

#### **What Potential for Angus?**

- SRF is ideally suited to marginal agricultural land (Agricultural Class 4.1 or higher) and could be more easily integrated with traditional forest, estate and farm management
- Agricultural sites are likely to have a legacy of fertiliser application and could therefore negate the need for significant fertiliser inputs during the first rotation of SRF
- The rotation cycle for SRF is shorter than that for traditional forestry systems and would therefore offer a more flexible timeframe for tenant farmers
- SRF can deliver high levels of carbon benefits and could therefore be considered in carbon offset schemes

<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS – TIMBER</b>			
<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>  (1 – High 2 – Medium 3 – Low)	<b>KEY PARTNERS</b>  & <i>(preferred partnership organisations)</i>
<b>KT2.1</b>	Support expansion of productive forest areas in the Angus Glens, where it is appropriate to do so	1	<b>FCS/AC</b> <i>(ConFor)</i>
<b>KT2.2</b>	Promote clear messages about the benefits of timber for biomass and low carbon construction to key stakeholders	1	<b>FCS</b> <i>(Scottish Forest &amp; Timber Technologies Group)</i>
<b>KT2.3</b>	Promote guidance on the use of timber for procurement and construction partners	1	<b>FCS</b>
<b>KT2.4</b>	Facilitate open days/demonstration events to showcase existing good practice in Angus	2	<b>FCS</b> <i>(SEARS partners)</i>
<b>KT2.5</b>	Support a review of the application, approval and inspection processes for smaller scale farm woodland planting	2	<b>FCS</b>
<b>KT2.6</b>	In collaboration with farming groups, promote funding options for smaller scale woodland creation on farms	1	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(RPID/NFUS)</i>
<b>KT2.7</b>	Facilitate series of small scale timber utilisation training/information sessions for targeted end users, particularly small estates and farms	2	<b>FCS</b>
<b>KT2.8</b>	Support the Stirling & Tayside Regional Timber Transport Group and use as a mechanism to identify, discuss and seek resolutions for timber transport issues, including modal shift options and Agreed Routes monitoring	1	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>

## **CASE STUDY – Timber Utilisation**

### **James Jones, Kirriemuir**

James Jones (JJ) mill has been located at Kirriemuir since 1947 processing seasonal soft and hardwoods. Since 1970, the mill has focused on long length and large diameter softwoods using specialist machinery that can process up to 1m diameter and 8.5m length. Considerable investment has been made in order to handle this work and a significant proportion of the mill's raw material has originated from sites within Angus.

Circa 30,000 tonnes of timber were processed in 2009 and the mill has seen a 60% growth in business in the past 4 years, which coincides with the latest machinery investments.

JJ products travel across the UK, from Shetland to London, and a niche market is currently developing for landscape timbers for the 2012 Olympic Games. The main market is split between commercial and bespoke domestic buildings and agricultural fencing and roofing timber, with a wide range of niche products also being produced.

Significant volumes of co-products (board, bark, chips and sawdust) are transported onwards to an alternative market and total weekly mill waste is only four standard size wheelie bins!

#### **Why Angus?**

- Angus has a large proportion of private land owners, resulting in a large range of tree species being planted. This has created a significant supply of large trees; thereby allowing the mill to specialize in long length and large diameter timber processing
- Companies would have to travel south of Edinburgh to find an alternative mill with similar capacity; a more central location is therefore very attractive
- JJ can reduce lorry miles and carbon emissions by using materials from the Angus Glens
- Processed products are lower in volume than the raw material and it's therefore more economical to mill locally and then transport to market

## **CASE STUDY – Timber Utilisation**

### **Carpenter Oak & Woodland, Lintrathen**

Based from sites in Angus and Wiltshire, Carpenter Oak & Woodland is a leading UK provider of bespoke traditional and contemporary timber frames. The oak timber framing yard at Lintrathen is responsible for the logistics and delivery of all Scottish projects which have included: -

- The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Head Quarters in Balloch
- The Stirling Castle 2000 restoration project

Timber is purchased directly from sawmills in beam format on project-by-project basis and is sourced from within Europe; mainly from UK and French millers. No materials are held in stock and the quantity and quality of timber is determined by the project architect's specifications.

#### **Why Angus?**

- Scotland has a higher proportion of timber frame buildings than its other UK counterparts (mostly panel board softwood frames for mass production)
- Due to the Scottish Government's drive for sustainable homes, Scottish builders and architects have a good understanding of post and beam construction
- Timber frame construction methods, whilst still developing, are well embedded in Scotland
- Scottish clients are increasingly specifying the use of environmental materials in construction

<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</b>			
<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>  (1 – High 2 – Medium 3 – Low)	<b>KEY PARTNERS</b>  & <i>(preferred partnership organisations)</i>
<b>KT3.1</b>	Promote good examples of successful investment related to forestry and related businesses and disseminate to potentially interested parties	3	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(Scottish Forest &amp; Timber Technologies Group)</i>
<b>KT3.2</b>	Engage with industry business fora, such as the Scottish Forest & Timber Technologies Group, to strengthen links with local businesses and identify sustainable growth opportunities	1	<b>FCS</b> <i>(ConFor/SRPBA/SWHA)</i>
<b>KT3.3</b>	Investigate & promote opportunities for forestry-related diversification in four key areas:  1. Biomass  2. Sustainable forest tourism  3. High value markets  4. Habitat restoration	2  2  2  2	<b>FCS</b>  <i>(Scottish Forest &amp; Timber Technologies Group)</i> <i>(VisitScotland)</i>  <i>(SNH)</i>
<b>KT3.4</b>	Support the development of partnerships between farmers and local communities for biomass supply and utilisation	1	<b>FCS</b> <i>(NFUS)</i>
<b>KT3.5</b>	Investigate development of collaborative working practices and support the provision of co-operative working models, information and guidance and good practice examples	2	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(Local machinery rings)</i>
<b>KT3.6</b>	Identify opportunities for helping train new workers in Angus possibly via new rural/forestry apprenticeships	2	<b>FCS</b> <i>(Lantra/Scottish Forest &amp; Timber Technologies Group/Forestry Contracting Association)</i>

## **CASE STUDY – Business Development**

### **Angus Biofuels, Padanaram**

Angus Biofuels initially started as a farm diversification project and stemmed from the desire to provide heat for buildings owned by the proprietor's existing property and letting company. The enterprise has since expanded across Scotland but has its Head Quarters in Forfar.

The fuel supply business was developed in tandem with the company's Energy Services Company (ESCO) and now supplies fuel by the tonne, m<sup>3</sup> or by the kWh through heat supply contracts.

The main site at Padanaram can process up to 20,000 tonnes of roundwood per annum, with approximately 80% of the raw material coming from Angus; the remaining 20% being sourced from the neighbouring counties of Perthshire and Kincardineshire.

The raw material is chipped and stored during the summer months, when the air dried timber is at its lowest moisture content, and then stored at the Padanaram depot. The large facility can store approximately 1000 tonnes of woodchip and 1000 tonnes of roundwood, thereby allowing Angus Biofuels to meet its supply contracts through the winter.

#### **Why Angus?**

- The original property and building business was already well established in Angus and whilst projects were initially developed in its own buildings, the company also gained support from Angus Council to install the first public biomass boiler at Tannadice School
- The business supplies local customers and sourcing local fuel at the right price is critical in order to keep haulage costs down, as double handling increases costs. Biomass is able to compete effectively with fossil fuels on a local scale due to reduced transport costs
- The delivery depots are located close to the installed and planned boilers – chipping is most cost effective when located close to the source of chipping and boilers
- Storage depots are close to main centres of population (i.e. Brechin, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Arbroath and Montrose), thus allowing for a wide customer base and reduced haulage of bulky chip



<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>			
<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>  (1 – High 2 – Medium 3 – Low)	<b>KEY PARTNERS</b>  & <i>(preferred partnership organisations)</i>
<b>KT4.1</b>	Support community involvement in management and purchase of woodland	2	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>
<b>KT4.2</b>	Investigate multiple-ownership options for development land	3	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(CWA)</i>
<b>KT4.3</b>	Develop Woodland In and Around Towns funding applications for on-going management and development of woodlands in or near towns throughout Angus and those bordering Dundee	1	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(CWA)</i>
<b>KT4.4</b>	Commission study to establish: -  1. Level of demand for community involvement in woodlands  2. Skills requirements of communities	2  2	<b>FCS</b>  <b>FCS</b>
<b>KT4.5</b>	Develop Forests for People funding applications to support implementation of community skills training programmes	1	<b>FCS</b> <i>(CWA)</i>
<b>KT4.6</b>	Facilitate programme of skills workshops for community representatives and key stakeholders	3	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(CWA/SWHA)</i>
<b>KT4.7</b>	Encourage stronger links between the forest industry, Forest Education & Forest Schools Initiatives and the education sector across Angus	2	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(FEI/Scottish Forest &amp; Timber Technologies Group)</i>
<b>KT4.8</b>	Assist with programme of open days for teachers to improve understanding of industry and strengthen links between industry and end users	3	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(FEI)</i>
<b>KT4.9</b>	Investigate feasibility of adopting three key education initiatives in Angus: -  1. Tree Wardens Scheme  2. Woodland Bus  3. Angus Countryside [Forestry] Initiative	3  3  3	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(FEI)</i>

## **CASE STUDY – Creating Woodlands in and around Towns**

### **Aberdeenshire & Dundee City**

Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) is the focus of Forestry Commission Scotland's work to improve the quality of life in towns and cities. The scheme aims to: -

- Create new woodland
- Bring neglected woodlands into active management
- Work with people to help use their local woodland

**Aberdeenshire** Council has been involved in WIAT woodlands for a number of years and during this time have improved access to/in over 25 woodlands, employed a Community Woodland Ranger and supported the formation of 4 new woodland management groups. Prior to WIAT applications being submitted, management plans are produced for each of the proposed sites; these detailing the baseline characteristics of each woodland, identifying the short term management objectives and setting priorities for action for a 5 year period.

Longer Term Management Objectives for the woodlands are to: -

- Maintain the woodland area and restore the diversity of habitats and species within it
- Provide for appropriate recreational and educational use of the wood.

**Dundee City** Council submitted their first WIAT application in 2005 and the successful project enabled a significant improvement in the provision of woodland in Dundee to be made. Further WIAT funding has subsequently been sought to extend and complement previous WIAT accomplishments and to increase community involvement in woodland. For example, Dundee Trees and Woods in Greenspace (TWIG) project have applied for WIAT funding to carry out work in Dundee to improve the city's woodland and link these woodlands to the communities close by. Careful attention and co-ordination has been made with existing strategies and plans which refer to communities, access, recreation, open space and woodland management in Dundee.

It is anticipated that WIAT funding has and will help to maximise the value of Dundee's woodland for the health, wellbeing and recreational benefit of the city's residents.

## **CASE STUDY – Creating Woodlands in and around Towns**

### **Kinnordy Estate, Kirriemuir**

Caddam & Migvie Woods, Kirriemuir, lie to the north and north east of Kirriemuir on **Kinnordy Estate** and the woodlands enjoy a high level of usage by walkers and the local community. Significant work has been carried out in both woodlands through the WIAT initiative which has been aimed at developing their recreational potential and enhancing the enjoyment for those wishing to walk, ride or visit the area.

Improvement works have included the widening of selective paths, creation of formal access points and a bridle circuit, soft and hard landscaping and the redevelopment of car parking areas.

As well as enjoying the woodlands for recreation, the local community now take an active role in their on-going maintenance and management.

#### **What Potential for Angus?**

- Project development could increase knowledge of the local woodland resource
- Existing Local Authority plans, frameworks and guidance on planning, access, communities and land management should be worked into successful applications
- Assistance could be available for the development of woodland management plans
- Partnership working would be required to ensure woodlands are actively managed, deliver maximum community benefits and meet Local Authority strategic objectives
- Woodlands could be brought back into active management
- The provision of improved recreational facilities could be financially supported
- Successful community involvement would increase residents' awareness of the benefits provided by woodland and forests
- Cross-sectoral working would be enhanced and community links established/strengthened
- Opportunities could be identified for the use of woodlands for education purposes

<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS – ACCESS AND HEALTH</b>			
<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b> (1 – High 2 – Medium 3 – Low)	<b>KEY PARTNERS</b> & <i>(preferred partnership organisations)</i>
<b>KT5.1</b>	Encourage links between/co-ordinated promotion of existing access routes/opportunities	2	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>
<b>KT5.2</b>	Improve management of and access to woodlands closer to centres of population	1	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>
<b>KT5.3</b>	Develop Woodland In and Around Towns funding applications to enhance access to/facilities within woodland areas	1	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(CWA)</i>
<b>KT5.4</b>	Investigate & promote multiple-management options for recreational use of land	2	<b>AC</b>
<b>KT5.5</b>	Explore options for dedicated mountain bike trails in the Angus Glens	2	<b>FCS</b>
<b>KT5.6</b>	Work with NHS Tayside to develop woodland for health initiative at Stracathro Hospital as a demonstration site in Angus	2	<b>FCS</b> <i>(NHS)</i>
<b>KT5.7</b>	Consider delivering a programme of woodland access events/demonstration days including orienteering and traditional crafts	3	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>

## **CASE STUDY –Mountain Biking Partnership**

### **Laggan Wolftrax, Laggan**

Laggan Forest Trust have a formal long-term Management Agreement with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) for the management of Strathmashie Woodlands near Laggan Bridge in Inverness-shire. The Trust raised a desire for a single-track off road cycling facility prior to 2003/04.

A range of partners were involved in the management, delivery and financing of the project and the venture also involved strong links with the local community.

Those partners who contributed financially saw the benefits as being: -

- **Economic:** generating additional economic activity, particularly within a peripheral area
- **Environmental:** allowing development within a less environmentally sensitive area
- **Community:** help to support a rural/fragile community, provide employment opportunities

The mountain bike trails became fully operational in November 2004 and over 17km of trails are now available to users; around 9km of trails were single-track trails constructed specifically for the site. In addition to the trails there are other facilities provided on site including a bike shop, cafe, toilets and showering facilities. The mountain bike facilities are free with the benefits of the venture being accrued by businesses in the local economy rather than to the developer of the facilities.

#### **What Potential for Angus?**

- A partnership approach would be essential to ensure successful development, delivery, marketing and legacy and to meet shared objectives
- Adequate market research would be required to confirm the demand/need for the facility and best location for site/s
- Consideration should be given to all potential users – i.e. mountain bikers, walkers, horse riders/pony trekkers and to the style, size and range of facilities required
- Engagement with local accommodation providers would be essential to enhance the visitor experience through joint promotion and identify opportunities to encourage longer lengths of stay

<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS – ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</b>			
<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b> (1 – High 2 – Medium 3 – Low)	<b>KEY PARTNERS</b> & <i>(preferred partnership organisations)</i>
<b>KT6.1</b>	Facilitate series of environmental good practice workshops to targeted audiences	2	<b>FCS</b> <i>(SNH)</i>
<b>KT6.2</b>	In consultation with the Historic Gardens Society, review and develop further the existing inventory of Designed Landscapes in Angus	3	<b>FCS</b> <i>(HS/HGS)</i>
<b>KT6.3</b>	In consultation with the archaeological service, identify sites of archaeological interest in Angus and ensure that this information is used to inform forest management and protection of the cultural heritage resource	2	<b>AC</b> <i>(HS)</i>
<b>KT6.4</b>	Incorporate heritage information into forestry interpretative provision	3	<b>FCS &amp; AC</b> <i>(HS)</i>
<b>KT6.5</b>	Commission report to investigate tourism benefits for Angus from three key heritage features: -  1. Archaeological sites in the Angus Glens  2. Heritage Trees  3. Designed Landscapes	2  2  2	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b>  <i>(HS)</i>  <i>(VisitScotland)</i>  <i>(HGS)</i>
<b>KT6.6</b>	Support collaborative working between land managers to encourage woodland creation, including shelterbelts, riparian woodland and habitat networks, and the management of existing woodlands, specifically those in Angus' water catchment and land designation areas	1	<b>FCS</b> <i>(RPID/SNH)</i>

## **CASE STUDY – Environmental Good Practice**

### **The River South Esk Catchment Management Plan**

The River South Esk catchment is the area of land drained by the River South Esk and its burns, including its lochs, ground waters, wetlands and the unique estuary of Montrose Basin.

The water resource is of immense value to a variety of users from the local community, to businesses and tourism providers and 2/3 of the Catchment is used for agricultural purposes. It is a source of drinking water, irrigation for crops, watering for livestock and a valuable habitat for wildlife. It also acts as a basis for tourism, recreation and salmon fishing and is therefore a central asset, underpinning much of the rural economy of Angus.

Officially formed in April 2008, the River South Esk Catchment Management Plan brings together all of the users of the River South Esk catchment. The consultation processes allowed users to firstly propose, discuss and agree the main environmental, social and economic issues affecting the catchment and then develop aims to carry out actions which will guide the future management of activities as outlined within the [River South Esk Catchment Management Plan](#), which was completed and published in December 2009.

#### **Why Angus?**

- Collaborative working has enabled the production of an effective and sustainable Catchment Management Plan
- Broad consultation and monitoring, involving a wide range of partners and regular update meetings are essential to ensure a balance between individual interests
- Data collation and interpretation needs to be co-ordinated in order to ensure information is accurate, up-to-date and reliable
- Good forestry practice can help to mitigate against diffuse forestry pollution; for example, forest plans which incorporate buffer strips between watercourses and areas of new planting should be encouraged
- It is important to incorporate outcomes and proposals from Catchment Management Plan into statutory documents

<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS – BIODIVERSITY</b>			
<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>  (1 – High 2 – Medium 3 – Low)	<b>KEY PARTNERS</b>  & <i>(preferred partnership organisations)</i>
<b>KT7.1</b>	Support expansion of woodlands in Angus Glens for forest habitat network development and enlargement	1	<b>AC &amp; FCS</b> <i>(SNH)</i>
<b>KT7.2</b>	Influence local grant enhancements to support management of key habitat types in Angus:  1. Native woodland remnants  2. Designed Landscapes  3. Riparian woodland  4. Forest Habitat Networks  5. Ancient woodlands (i.e. PAWS)	1  1  1  1  1	<b>FCS</b> <i>(SNH)</i>  <i>(HGS)</i>  <i>(SNH)</i>  <i>(SNH)</i>  <i>(SNH)</i>
<b>KT7.3</b>	Facilitate woodland design workshops for targeted end-users and promote benefits of well designed woodland for landscape benefits and sporting interests	2	<b>FCS</b> <i>(SRPBA/BASC)</i>
<b>KT7.4</b>	Investigate/promote woodland grazing options and identify potential implementation areas in Angus Glens	1	<b>FCS</b> <i>(SNH/RPID)</i>
<b>KT7.5</b>	In conjunction with Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels (Tayside) and the Angus Red Squirrel Group, facilitate awareness raising campaign for community and education groups to promote red squirrel monitoring and conservation work	1	<b>AC/FCS</b> <i>(SNH/SWT)</i>



## **CASE STUDY – Encouraging Biodiversity**

### **Struan Wood Grazing Project**

Struan Wood SSSI is located on Atholl Estate to the north of Blair Atholl and is under a tenancy agreement with a local farmer. The designated site extends to approximately 80 Ha, half of which is scattered open birch woodland. The remaining area is a combination of heathland, grassland and mires, with significant areas both within and out with the woodland being encroached by bracken.

The site is being managed as part of a controlled livestock grazing programme with the aim of enhancing biodiversity in semi-natural native woodland. The project also aims to: -

- Maintain existing areas of priority woodland habitat
- Enhance the ecological condition of priority woodland habitat and species
- Increase the overall extent of priority woodland habitat where feasible and desirable

#### **What Potential for Angus?**

- Integration of woodland and farm management would help deliver multiple objectives - control of woodland regeneration, improvement of habitat and species biodiversity, protection of archaeological or cultural features, timber production, protection of soils and watercourses and enhancement or maintenance of recreational features
- Controlled grazing could be primarily aimed at improving woodland and associated open ground habitat to meet biodiversity objectives
- Appropriate levels of domestic livestock, particularly cattle, would have a positive role in maintaining biodiversity in open wooded ecosystems
- Controlled grazing would not only enhance biodiversity but could also be used as a management tool to encourage tree regeneration
- Livestock could maintain grassland, wetland and heathland components within woodlands, but if stocking rates are too high or not seasonally adjusted they could prevent desirable tree regeneration
- Some species of high conservation importance require controlled grazing in their habitats for survival

### APPENDIX III – SRDP/RURAL PRIORITIES MATRIX

The tables below replicate the opportunities identified in **SECTION 4: DELIVERING WOODLAND & FORESTRY FRAMEWORK IN ANGUS** above and provide an indication of SRDP funding measures that could be relevant to the activities described.

It is important to note however, that the availability of funding is neither inferred nor implied by the inclusion of the measures listed; these are solely to demonstrate potential linkages between the Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework and the SRDP and should therefore be used for general guidance only.

Further information on SRDP funding options for woodland and forestry activity in Angus, together with details of how to apply, can be obtained from: -

Forestry Commission Scotland  
Perth and Argyll Conservancy  
Algo Business Centre  
Glenearn Road  
Perth  
PH2 ONJ

T: 01738 442830

F: 01738 441787

E: [panda.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:panda.cons@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

**KEY THEME 1: CLIMATE CHANGE**

REF:	OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS:	SRDP/RURAL PRIORTIY
<b>KT1.1</b>	<p>Encourage appropriate woodland creation through three key expansion areas (see also <b>Map Y: Opportunities for Woodland Expansion in Angus</b>):</p> <p>-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Angus Glens - well designed multi-purpose woodlands and habitat networks</li> <li>2. Foothills of the Angus Glens – smaller scale woodlands which integrate with existing agricultural activities</li> <li>3. In and around towns and villages of Angus – primarily woodlands for public access and education and where access and greening the urban environment will be the key drivers</li> </ol>	<b>TAY14</b>
<b>KT1.2</b>	<p>Consider zoning/prioritisation of development land for appropriate woodland creation where there is potential associated planning gain and multiple public and environmental benefits demonstrated</p>	
<b>KT1.3</b>	<p>Review current research and investigate potential for short rotation forestry on small scale pilot areas</p>	<b>TAY01b; TAY01c; TAY21L &amp; TAY24</b>
<b>KT1.4</b>	<p>Ensure use of biomass for heating and local timber for low carbon construction, is included in tender specifications initiated by public bodies in Angus</p>	<b>TAY01g; TAY26c; TAY28</b>
<b>KT1.5</b>	<p>Publicise examples of current use of timber by biomass sector in Angus amongst key target audiences</p>	<b>TAY05; TAY24; TAY28</b>
<b>KT1.6</b>	<p>Facilitate series of timber utilisation training/information sessions for targeted end users, particularly architects and specifiers</p>	<b>TAY27</b>
<b>KT1.7</b>	<p>Collaborate with the BioNES network to promote opportunities for bioenergy and carbon trading</p>	<b>TAY26c; TAY28</b>
<b>KT1.8</b>	<p>Develop co-ordinated forest &amp; woodland plans for all council-owned woodland</p>	<b>TAY14; TAY23</b>
<b>KT1.9</b>	<p>Promote low impact silvicultural systems and regeneration in publically owned woodlands</p>	<b>TAY07a; TAY14; TAY20</b>

**KEY THEME 2: TIMBER**

<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS:</b>	<b>SRDP/RURAL PRIORTIY</b>
<b>KT2.1</b>	Support expansion of productive forest areas in the Angus Glens, where it is appropriate to do so	<b>TAY07a; TAY14; TAY21</b>
<b>KT2.2</b>	Promote clear messages about the benefits of timber for biomass and low carbon construction to key stakeholders	<b>TAY05; TAY26c; TAY28</b>
<b>KT2.3</b>	Promote guidance on the use of timber for procurement and construction partners	<b>TAY27</b>
<b>KT2.4</b>	Facilitate open days/demonstration events to showcase existing good practice in Angus	<b>TAY07a</b>
<b>KT2.5</b>	Support a review of the application, approval and inspection processes for smaller scale farm woodland planting	<b>TAY01a; TAY01b; TAY14</b>
<b>KT2.6</b>	In collaboration with farming groups, promote funding options for smaller scale woodland creation on farms	<b>TAY01a; TAY01b; TAY14</b>
<b>KT2.7</b>	Facilitate series of small scale timber utilisation training/information sessions for targeted end users, particularly small estates and farms	<b>TAY05; TAY06; TAY07a; TAY26b; TAY29c</b>
<b>KT2.8</b>	Support the Stirling & Tayside Regional Timber Transport Group and use as a mechanism to identify, discuss and seek resolutions for timber transport issues, including modal shift options	<b>TAY06; TAY07a; TAY26b; TAY27</b>

**KEY THEME 3: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

REF:	OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS:	SRDP/RURAL PRIORTIY
<b>KT3.1</b>	Promote good examples of successful investment related to forestry and related businesses and disseminate to potentially interested parties	<b>TAY03; TAY05; TAY06; TAY07a; TAY26a; TAY26b; TAY26c; TAY27; TAY28; TAY29; TAY30</b>
<b>KT3.2</b>	Engage with industry business fora, such as the Scottish Forest Industries Cluster, to strengthen links with local businesses and identify sustainable growth opportunities	<b>TAY05</b>
<b>KT3.3</b>	Investigate & promote opportunities for forestry-related diversification in four key areas:  1. Biomass  2. Sustainable forest tourism  3. High value markets  4. Habitat restoration	<b>TAY05; TAY26a; TAY27; TAY30</b>
<b>KT3.4</b>	Support the development of partnerships between farmers and local communities for biomass supply and utilisation	<b>TAY01a; TAY01b; TAY01c; TAY05; TAY06; TAY26b</b>
<b>KT3.5</b>	Investigate development of collaborative working practices and support the provision of co-operative working models, information and guidance and good practice examples	<b>TAY25</b>
<b>KT3.6</b>	Identify opportunities for helping train new workers in Angus possibly via new rural/forestry apprenticeships	<b>TAY03; TAY29</b>

**KEY THEME 4: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS:</b>	<b>SRDP/RURAL PRIORTIY</b>
<b>KT4.1</b>	Support community involvement in management and purchase of woodland	<b>TAY31; TAY32</b>
<b>KT4.2</b>	Investigate multiple-ownership options for development land	<b>TAY30; TAY32</b>
<b>KT4.3</b>	Develop Woodland In and Around Towns funding applications for on-going management and development of woodlands in or near towns throughout Angus and those bordering Dundee	<b>TAY14; WIAT Challenge Fund; Forests for People Challenge Fund</b>
<b>KT4.4</b>	Commission study to establish: -  3. Level of demand for community involvement in woodlands  4. Skills requirements of communities	<b>TAY29</b>
<b>KT4.5</b>	Develop Forests for People funding applications to support implementation of community skills training programmes	<b>Forests for People Challenge Fund</b>
<b>KT4.6</b>	Facilitate programme of skills workshops for community representatives and key stakeholders	<b>TAY03; TAY15c; TAY29</b>
<b>KT4.7</b>	Encourage stronger links between the forest industry, Forest Education & Forest Schools Initiatives and the education sector across Angus	<b>TAY26b; TAY27</b>
<b>KT4.8</b>	Assist with programme of open days for teachers to improve understanding of industry and strengthen links between industry and end users	<b>TAY26b</b>
<b>KT4.9</b>	Investigate feasibility of adopting three key education initiatives in Angus: -  4. Tree Wardens Scheme  5. Woodland Bus  6. Angus Countryside [Forestry] Initiative	<b>TAY26b</b>

**KEY THEME 5: ACCESS & HEALTH**

<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS: ACCESS &amp; HEALTH</b>	<b>SRDP/RURAL PRIORTIY</b>
<b>KT5.1</b>	Encourage links between/co-ordinated promotion of existing access routes/opportunities	<b>TAY25</b>
<b>KT5.2</b>	Improve management of and access to woodlands closer to centres of population	<b>WIAT Challenge Fund; Forests for People Challenge Fund</b>
<b>KT5.3</b>	Develop Woodland In and Around Towns funding applications to enhance access to/facilities within woodland areas	<b>TAY14</b>
<b>KT5.4</b>	Investigate & promote multiple-management options for recreational use of land	<b>TAY21; TAY30</b>
<b>KT5.5</b>	Explore options for dedicated mountain bike trails in the Angus Glens	<b>TAY30</b>
<b>KT5.6</b>	Work with NHS Tayside to develop woodland for health initiative at Stracathro Hospital as a demonstration site in Angus	<b>Forests for People Challenge Fund</b>
<b>KT5.7</b>	Consider delivering a programme of woodland access events/demonstration days including orienteering and traditional crafts	<b>TAY15c; TAY15d; TAY25; TAY26b; TAY29</b>

**KEY THEME 6: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

<b>REF:</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS:</b>	<b>SRDP/RURAL PRIORTIY</b>
<b>KT6.1</b>	Facilitate series of environmental good practice workshops to targeted audiences	<b>TAY04a; TAY09</b>
<b>KT6.2</b>	In consultation with the Historic Gardens Society, review and develop further the existing inventory of Designed Landscapes in Angus	
<b>KT6.3</b>	In consultation with the archaeological service, identify sites of archaeological interest in Angus and ensure that this information is used to inform forest management and protection of the cultural heritage resource	<b>TAY15a</b>
<b>KT6.4</b>	Incorporate heritage information into forestry interpretative provision	<b>TAY15d</b>
<b>KT6.5</b>	Commission report to investigate tourism benefits for Angus from three key heritage features: -  1. Archaeological sites in the Angus Glens  2. Heritage Trees  3. Designed Landscapes	<b>TAY14</b>
<b>KT6.6</b>	Support collaborative working between land managers to encourage woodland creation, including shelterbelts and riparian woodland, and the management of existing woodlands, specifically those in Angus' water catchment and land designation areas	<b>TAY01g; TAY07a; TAY09; TAY10; TAY12; TAY14; TAY16 – TAY20 (water &amp; soils priorities)</b>



**KEY THEME 7: BIODIVERSITY**

REF:	OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANGUS: BIODIVERSITY	SRDP/RURAL PRIORTIY
<b>KT7.1</b>	Support expansion of woodlands in Angus Glens for forest habitat network development and enlargement	<b>TAY12; TAY14</b>
<b>KT7.2</b>	Influence local grant enhancements to support management of key habitat types in Angus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Native woodland remnants</li> <li>2. Designed Landscapes</li> <li>3. Riparian woodland</li> <li>4. Forest Habitat Networks</li> <li>5. Ancient woodlands (i.e. PAWS)</li> </ol>	<b>TAY08</b> <b>TAY13e</b> <b>TAY14</b> <b>TAY21</b>
<b>KT7.3</b>	Facilitate woodland design workshops for targeted end-users and promote benefits of well designed woodland for landscape benefits and sporting interests	<b>TAY13a-d; TAY14</b>
<b>KT7.4</b>	Investigate/promote woodland grazing options and identify potential implementation areas in Angus Glens	<b>TAY14</b>
<b>KT7.5</b>	In conjunction with Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels (Tayside) and the Angus Red Squirrel Group, facilitate awareness raising campaign for community and education groups to promote red squirrel monitoring and conservation work	<b>TAY09; TAY10; TAY11</b>

**APPENDIX IV – LISTING OF KEY PARTNERS & PREFERRED PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATIONS**

<b>AC</b>	<b>Angus Council</b>
<i>ConFor</i>	<i>Confederation of Forest Industries</i>
<i>CWA</i>	<i>Community Woodland Association</i>
<i>FCA</i>	<i>Forestry Contracting Association</i>
<b>FCS</b>	<b>Forestry Commission Scotland</b>
<i>FEI</i>	<i>Forest Education Initiative</i>
<i>HGS</i>	<i>Historic Garden Society</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Historic Scotland</i>
<i>LANTRA</i>	<i>Lantra Sector Skills Council</i>
<i>NFUS</i>	<i>National Farmers Union of Scotland</i>
<i>NHS</i>	<i>National Health Service</i>
<i>RPID</i>	<i>Rural Payment &amp; Inspections Directorate</i>
<i>SEARS</i>	<i>Scotland's Environmental &amp; Rural Services</i>
<i>SFTT</i>	<i>Scottish Forest &amp; Timber Technologies Group</i>
<i>SNH</i>	<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>
<i>SRPBA</i>	<i>Scottish Rural Property &amp; Business Association</i>
<i>SWHA</i>	<i>Scottish Wild Harvests Association</i>
<i>SWT</i>	<i>Scottish Wildlife Trust</i>
<i>VisitScotland</i>	<i>Visit Scotland</i>

**APPENDIX V –REFERENCES**

Wherever possible above, hyperlinks have been inserted for current publications which, when viewing the pdf edition of the Angus Woodland & Forestry Framework, should take you directly to the publication in question.

<b>Author/Published by</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Publication Title</b>
Aberdeenshire Council	2005	Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City
Angus Council	2007	Angus Council Community Plan 2007 - 2012
Best Practice Steering Group	2008	Deer Management Guidance
Cairngorm National Park Authority	2008	The Forests of the Cairngorms, Cairngorms National Park Forest and Woodland Framework
Council of the European Communities	1992	Habitat Directive
Dundee City Council	2011	Dundee Urban Woodland Strategy (in preparation )
Forestry Commission	2011	The UK Forestry Standard
Forestry Commission	2011	Woodland Carbon Code
Forestry Commission Scotland	2010	The Right Tree in the Right Place
Forestry Commission Scotland	2006	Scottish Forestry Strategy
Forestry Commission Scotland	2010	National Forest Land Scheme
Forestry Commission Scotland	2008	Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment
Forestry Commission Scotland	2009	Tay Forest District Strategic Plan 2009 - 2013
Historic Scotland	2007	Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
Rural Development Initiatives Ltd	2008	Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Strategic Assessment
Scottish Executive	2005	Scotland's Biodiversity; It's in your hands
Scottish Executive	2003	Improving Health in Scotland - the Challenge
Scottish Government	2009	Single Outcome Agreement for Angus 2009 - 2012
Scottish Government	2011	Getting the best from our land - A land use strategy for Scotland
Scottish Government	2006	A Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture
Scottish Government	2006	Changing our Ways; Scotland's Climate Change Programme
Scottish Government	2006	Rural Development Programme for Scotland 2007 - 2013 - The Strategic Plan
Scottish Ministers	1999	Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999
Scottish Natural Heritage	2004	Scottish Outdoor Access Code
Tayside Biodiversity Partnership	2009	The Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan
The River South Esk Catchment Partnership	2009	South Esk Catchment Management Plan
UKWAS	2008	The UK Woodland Assurance Standard
Worrell, Taylor and Spittal	2004	The Angus Glens and North East Perthshire Forest Habitat Network