

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT COVER NOTE

PART 1

To: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

PART 2

A post-adoption SEA statement is attached for the PPS entitled:

Dumfries and Galloway Forestry and Woodland Strategy

The Responsible Authority is:

Dumfries and Galloway Council

PART 3

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Date: 23 April 2014

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POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT

Post-adoption SEA statement for:

Dumfries and Galloway Forestry and Woodland Strategy

Approved on:

14 January 2014

Responsible Authority:

Dumfries and Galloway Council

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT INTRODUCTION

This document (referred to here as the post-adoption SEA statement) has been prepared in accordance with Section 18 of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

POST-ADOPTION SEA STATEMENT AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

Website

The full PPS as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement are available on the Responsible Authority's website at:

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Office Address

The PPS, as adopted, along with the Environmental Report and post-adoption SEA Statement may also be inspected free of charge (or a copy obtained for a reasonable charge) at the principal office of the Responsible Authority:

Contact name, address and telephone number

Andrew Maxwell – contact details as above

Times at which the documents may be inspected or a copy obtained:

Monday to Friday between the hours of 09:00 am and 05:00 pm.

KEY FACTS

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Name of Responsible Authority

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Title of PPS

Dumfries and Galloway Forestry and Woodland Strategy (DGFWS)

Purpose of PPS

In relation to Dumfries and Galloway there is recognition that there is further potential for developing the area's strengths in forestry, particularly in developing the processing capacity which can add value to timber production, as well as enhancing the environmental and social benefits from forests and woodlands.

The DGFWS will be an important document in influencing the future development, management and conservation of woodlands and forestry in the region, providing guidance, advice and recommendations under the following themes:

- Woodlands and the Environment
- Woodlands and Sustainable Growth
- Woodlands and Climate Change
- Woodlands for People
- Woodlands and Development

The Strategy is structured around these themes and will include action points and recommendations to allow for its implementation and monitoring.

What prompted the PPS?

The current Indicative Forestry Strategy was approved in 1999 and it is now considered appropriate to review and update it following the publication of Government Advice: The Right Tree in the Right Place (May 2010) which replaced Circular 9/1999 and the Scottish Forestry Strategy (2006). This new advice was prepared to inform the preparation of development plans. The Dumfries and Galloway Local Development Plan (LDP) is now in preparation and it is proposed that the strategy will be prepared in tandem with the LDP

Subject

The plan relates to the use of land for trees, woodland and forestry and associated economic, social and environmental considerations within the Dumfries and Galloway region.

Period Covered

The period covered by the plan is 2012-2022

Frequency of Updates

A review will be considered in 2019 following the adoption of the Local Development Plan.

Area of PPS

The DGFWS will cover the whole of the Dumfries and Galloway region: c. 6,400sq kms (this includes the area of D&G down to the low water mark).

Summary of nature/content of PPS

The plan provides a strategic framework against which to assess forestry and woodland proposals within the Dumfries and Galloway region.

Date Approved

14th January 2014

Contact name & job title, address, email, telephone number

Andrew Maxwell– contact details as above

Date

23 April 2014

1.0 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1.1 The Dumfries and Galloway Forestry and Woodland Strategy (DGFWS) has been subject to a process of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This has included the following activities:

- Taking into account the views of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Ministers (Historic Scotland) regarding the scope and level of detail that was appropriate for the Environmental Report;
- Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft PPS which included consideration of:
 - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
 - links between the PPS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
 - existing environmental problems affecting the PPS;
 - the plan's likely significant effects on the environment (positive and negative);
 - measures envisaged for the prevention, reduction and offsetting of any significant adverse effects;
 - an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives chosen; and
 - monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consultation on the Environmental Report;
- Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the PPS; and
- Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the PPS. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken.

1.2 This Post Adoption Strategy considers the final two stages of the SEA activities detailed above.

2.0 HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE PPS AND HOW THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

2.1 The following table (Table 1) summarises how environmental considerations have been integrated into the DGFWS and how the environmental report has been taken into account in accordance with Section 18(3)(a-b) of the Act. Part 3, which includes consideration of the five themes, and Part 4, in relation to opportunities for woodland expansion/restructure provides guidance and information in relation to how certain elements of woodland proposals will be assessed.

Table 1

Environmental Considerations and Findings from the Environmental Report	Integrated into Plan (Yes/No)	How Integrated/Taken into Account or Reason for Not Being Taken into Account
There are potentially mixed impacts to biodiversity as a result of enhanced access and recreation resulting in impacts to habitats and species through disturbance and erosion	Yes	The plan includes text as part of the introduction to Part 3 relating to the 5 themes to emphasise that balance is required between the various themes and their components that will need to be considered on a case by case basis as schemes and proposals come forward.
There are potential negative impacts due to inappropriate expansion and management could impact on biodiversity and landscape	Yes	Part 5 of the strategy lays out a strategic approach to woodland expansion and restructure which takes into account a wide number of factors including biodiversity and landscape. The strategy as a whole provides a framework for taking these factors into account when considering schemes and proposals on a case by case basis. Throughout the strategy there is an emphasis on the need for structural and species diversity, heritage trees, woodland creation, riparian woodland and designed landscapes.

3.0 HOW OPINIONS EXPRESSED DURING THE CONSULTATION HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

3.1 The Draft Environmental Report was published for public and statutory consultation along with the Draft DGFWS on 16 August and the consultation ran until 4 October 2013.

3.2 The following table (Table 2) summarises the consultation responses and how they have been taken into account (including any consultation required with other EU member states) in accordance with Section 18(3)(c-d).

3.3 A number of minor changes were required to the Environmental Report to address responses made by both the Consultation Authorities and interested organisations.

Table 2

Consultation Authorities
<p>Historic Scotland - Welcome that the comments provided at Scoping Stage have been taken into account during the preparation of the Environmental Report (ER). The ER provides a clear explanation of how the environmental assessment of the Woodland and Forestry strategy was undertaken.</p> <p>The Non-Technical Summary and Section 3 of the assessment highlights that predicted significant environmental effects of the draft strategy would not result in significant negative impacts on the environment. Note that it is considered the preferred Option 3 will be positive for the historic environment. (Alternatives Table 6).</p> <p>Overall content to agree with conclusions in Table 7 given that the strategy is a high level strategic document and incorporates mutually supportive themes which recognise the importance of the historic environment within woodland and forestry through its vision, various themes and key objectives and good practice standards.</p> <p>May wish to explore that there could potentially be positives for the historic environment through the development and enhancement of forestry related tourism and outdoor learning objectives at Theme B and Theme D in terms of opportunities for visitors to explore ways in which trees and woodlands can provide connections with the past through historic parkland or wooded historic landscapes, as well as the historic sites that can often be situated within them.</p> <p>The potential for negative impacts at local levels is discussed at Section 3.11 and concludes that the precise environmental effects of the strategy for local levels will be difficult to predict and the potential for negative impacts will be subject to further assessment processes such as EIA. When local sensitivities are to be considered/assessed at later stages in more detail, e.g. specific archaeological and historic sites or key viewpoint features, it will be useful if the Post Adoption Statement could include a clear commitment to delivering any recommendations, such as in depth assessments or scheduled monument consent (SMC), for lower level plans and actions that fall from this process as the strategy is implemented.</p>
<p>SEPA - Noted that overall the assessment showed significant positive, positive or no impacts. Are satisfied that an adequate assessment of the strategy has been carried out and agree with the assessment results.</p>
<p>SNH - Note that section 1.6 of the Environmental Report summarises the SNH position detailed in the letter of 23 November 2010 to the earlier Scoping Report. There is no indication however, to what extent the responses of the various consultees have been taken account of in the subsequent Environmental Report. Given that there are only three statutory consultees in this process it would be useful for the sake of transparency to be clear what changes if any have been adopted following this consultation.</p> <p>From our consideration of the Environmental Report we have concluded that the advice submitted by SNH at the scoping stage (other than the inclusion of wild land search areas) have not led to any changes to the Environmental Report.</p> <p>Have noted that Table 2 of the Environmental Report refers to the range of relevant strategic</p>

documents, however, this list has not been refreshed to reflect changes in the previous three years e.g. the UK Forestry Standard is no longer a draft document. The past three years has also seen a growing issue with disease in tree species. This is a major issue affecting strategic decisions for future forest and woodland but it is not reflected in the Environmental Report.

Other Comments Received through public consultation

FAW005 Scottish Water - On Page 24, within the Water section, the following should be amended from “Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill 2009 to “Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009”.

Response:

Historic Scotland: Comments are noted. Amendments have been made to Theme B under tourism to link the various tourism sectors, including cultural heritage, to outdoor learning and health and wellbeing under Theme D.

The remit and procedures for considering detailed schemes and proposals coming forward will be under a number of different organisations who may not refer back to the SEA Post-Adoption Statement for this information.

SEPA: Comments are noted

SNH: Comments are noted. It is proposed in future that possibly the section outlining the responses to the Scoping Report could be shown in a table with a column to indicate how the comments received from the consultation authorities have been taken into account. It is accepted that due to an error not all the comments received were integrated into the Environmental Report. The contents of Table 3 (relating to indicators and baseline data), Appendix 1 which lists the PPS and Appendix 2 which outlines the existing environmental problems below have been updated to indicate the original amendments proposed by SNH in their response to the Scoping Report and also further amendments proposed in their response to the Environmental Report.

There has been a growing issue with disease in certain tree species and this issue has been included as a consideration within Theme C: Woodlands and Climate Change within the DGFWS. The text within this section has been further expanded due to the recent outbreaks affecting both ash and larch trees which will have a great impact, particularly in the west of the region. This last major outbreak became publicly known only once the draft strategy and Environmental Report were being completed for consultation.

Scottish Water: The list of PPS has been updated and amended. The updated list is included as Appendix 1 to this document.

4.0 REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE PPS AS ADOPTED, IN THE LIGHT OF OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives considered

4.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires consideration of reasonable alternatives to the DGFWS to be identified, described and evaluated. The consideration of alternatives relates to the means by which the objectives of the plan can be met by different approaches.

4.2 Potential reasonable alternatives have been identified as follows:

- **Option 1 – Maintain status quo:** Although there is strong Government support for the provision of up to date forestry and woodland strategies and their production is considered to be good practice it is not a legal requirement to produce one.
- **Option 2 – Produce a strategy which only considers possible woodland expansion:** The existing Indicative Forestry Strategy focuses purely on appropriate locations for woodland expansion and planting and this approach could be taken forward and only this element included in the DGFWS.
- **Option 3 – Produce a strategy in line with recent Government advice contained in ‘The Right Tree in the Right Place’:** A forestry and woodland strategy could be produced in line with current Government guidance and in the light of recent ‘good examples’..

4.3 The assessment indicated that Option 3 provided the best environmental option, whilst maintaining a positive policy position for proposals for forestry and woodland which would take into account economic, social and environmental issues and as a result this was the only option taken forward for assessment in the SEA.

5.0 MEASURES THAT ARE TO BE TAKEN TO MONITOR SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PPS

5.1 Monitoring of the effects of implementing the DGFWS will be based on the performance of a set of key indicators which are indicated in Table 3 below. The majority of monitoring for the SEA objectives outlined in the environmental report is already undertaken by the Council or by other government bodies or agencies. Any new identified data can be incorporated into the monitoring arrangements for the IPP. This allows the monitoring to be incorporated into the existing performance monitoring.

5.2 The Council has published the Local Development Plan Monitoring Report (December 2010) which includes many of the monitoring needs identified within the environmental report. This will be a valuable baseline document to support the monitoring process. The requirements and mitigation measures identified during the DGFWS SEA process will feed into the next LDP Monitoring Report.

5.3 Further monitoring is undertaken for the Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Local Habitat Plans. It is expected that SEPA will continue to monitor water quality whilst SNH has responsibility to monitor and report on the condition of SSSIs and has a similar regime in place for monitoring the status of sites designated under the Habitats Directive. Locally designated sites and monitoring of key species and habitat management are the responsibility of local authorities. Monitoring will, therefore, rely on the continued day to day management and site knowledge of those managing land for which they have responsibility, and the ongoing activities of the environmental regulators.

Table 3

SEA Topic	SEA Objective	Indicators	Relevant Data
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	To help implement the objectives of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy	Condition of woodland features on statutory designated sites ¹	SACs SSSIs National Nature Reserves
	To halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats	Area of ancient native wet woodland restored from forested sites.	Local Nature Reserves Local Wildlife Sites UK BAP & LBAP priority habitats and species (where appropriate)
	To increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity and engage many more people in conservation and enhancement	Extent of new native wet woodland.	TPOs Ancient and long established woodlands
	To restore and enhance biodiversity in all our urban and rural environments through better planning, design and practice	Area of ancient native ash woodland restored from forested sites.	Biosphere reserves FCS red squirrel strongholds
	To develop an effective management framework that ensures that biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making	Extent of new native ash woodland.	RSPB/SNH Bird Sensitivity Map
	To ensure that the best new and existing knowledge on biodiversity is available to all policy makers and practitioners	Area of ancient native oak woodland restored from forested sites.	
		Extent of new native oak woodland.	
		Area of ancient native birch woodland restored from forested sites.	
Population and Human Health	To increase the opportunities for access to and enjoyment of forests and woodlands by all sectors of society	Number of improved access routes	Population figures Health and Wellbeing Profiles (life expectancy and mortality by cause)
		Number of all ability routes and horse trails	Principle recreation sites

¹ Designated sites consist of SACs and SSSIs

	<p>To ensure that sustainable tourism and recreation are promoted through the forestry sector</p> <p>To maximise the role of woodland and forestry in contributing to quality of life</p> <p>To maximise the role of woodland and forestry in contributing to health and wellbeing</p> <p>To encourage sustainable timber transport</p> <p>To maximise the contribution of the forestry sector to the viability of rural communities</p>	<p>Number of cycle paths</p> <p>Number of visitors to forestry visitor centres</p> <p>Open space audit quantity and quality</p> <p>Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT) – number of applications</p> <p>Damage to environmental resources/ facilities/ information and interpretation</p> <p>Number of woodland recreation facilities and improvements to</p> <p>Number of Timber Transport Routes Agreed</p> <p>Levels of employment in forestry and related schemes</p> <p>Levels of productivity from forestry and related sectors</p> <p>Training in forestry and related sectors</p>	<p>in forests</p> <p>Access to open space</p> <p>Scottish Index of multiple deprivation</p> <p>Core paths</p>
Soil	<p>To contribute to sustainable soil management through forestry and woodland planning management</p>	<p>Areas of restored peatlands</p> <p>Reduction in soil run-off entering rivers</p>	<p>Exceedence of Critical Loads for Soils</p> <p>Land Capability for Forestry Land Cover Map</p> <p>Contaminated land Land Classification</p> <p>Areas of peat (National Peatland Resource Inventory)</p>
Water	<p>To promote forestry and woodland management which contributes</p>	<p>Ecological status of waterbodies</p>	<p>Water quality monitoring data</p> <p>Indicative river and</p>

	positively to the sustainable management of the water environment and achievement of River Basin Management Plans	SAC and SSSI waterbodies in favourable condition	coastal flood maps Watercourse classification and ecological status
Air	To minimise the air quality impacts of timber transport and processing To maximise the role of woodlands and forestry in contributing to air quality	Air quality trends Timber transport trends Location and quantity of new planting	Air quality monitoring data
Climatic Factors	To increase the potential of the forestry sector in contributing to Scotland's renewable energy sources To further increase the role of woodland and forestry in achieving carbon sequestration To ensure that woodland and forestry planning and management take account of the need to adapt to climate change	Number of domestic and commercial biofuel applications and installations Scale and nature of new planting/restructured woodlands Levels of locally produced timber products	Carbon dioxide emissions by sector/per capita Levels of greenhouse gas emissions Local precipitation levels Local temperature levels
Material Assets	To minimise the use of resources including fuel and chemicals, and to minimise the creation of waste products To promote the integration and co-ordination of forestry and woodland with other land uses.	Number of domestic and commercial renewable energy applications and installations New planting (location and nature)	Existing forests and woodlands Agreed Timber Transport Routes Location of sawmills, wood processing facilities and forestry related businesses
Cultural Heritage	Need to ensure that current standards and good practice that have	Number and condition of designated and non designated sites	Scheduled Ancient Monuments Listed Buildings

	<p>developed over last 20 years are maintained and exemplary best practice extended.</p> <p>Need to identify areas that are particularly sensitive to change</p> <p>To further promote the protection and enhancement of the historic environment</p> <p>To further increase awareness and understanding of cultural heritage related to woodlands</p>	<p>Number and nature of new sites identified</p> <p>Number of new additional areas that have been identified as particularly sensitive to change</p> <p>Number of scheduled monuments within areas of forestry with up-to-date management plans</p> <p>Impacts on Ancient Woodland Inventory Sites</p> <p>Impacts on Scottish Semi Natural Woodland Sites</p> <p>Impacts on ancient wood pasture sites</p>	<p>Conservation Areas</p> <p>Archaeological Sensitive Areas</p> <p>Gardens and Designed Landscapes</p> <p>Ancient woodlands</p>
Landscape	<p>To increase the contribution of forests and trees to scenic values, including distinctiveness and diversity of landscape.</p>	<p>Number of new forest planting which fit with relevant landscape character assessment</p> <p>Number of appropriately restored planted areas</p>	<p>National Scenic Areas</p> <p>Regional Scenic Areas</p> <p>D&G Landscape Character Assessment Inventory and non-inventory Gardens and Designed landscapes</p> <p>Wild Land Search Area</p> <p>Forestry District Strategic Plans and digital mapping</p>

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 SEA has found that overall significant positive, positive or no impacts, no significant impacts were identified. Although it was identified that potentially negative effects on particular aspects may occur these issues will need to be addressed through careful consideration and balancing of the relevant environmental, social and economic issues.

6.2 The SEA process has made a positive effect on the plan. It will assist the Council in realising its aims of sustainable development, and help to promote an evidence-based culture and transparency.

Appendix 1 Relationship to Other Plans Programmes and Strategies

Topic	Name of Plan/Programme	Key Considerations
General		
	Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005	Sets out the requirement for SEA for relevant plans, programmes and strategies
	The UK Forestry Standard (FC) 2011	<p>The two main aims of the strategy are the sustainable management of our existing forests and woodlands and the steady expansion of tree cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide.</p> <p>The Standard has the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining or improving the stability of soil condition • protect or improve water quality • protect and enhance value of forests as carbon sinks/stores • maintain contribution of timber production to the economy • conserve and enhance biodiversity in and around woodlands • safe and efficient workforce activities • opportunities are enhanced for rural development; access and recreation; quality of life; awareness and participation; community involvement; and skills training • protect and enhance cultural heritage and landscape quality
	The Scottish Forestry Strategy (Scottish Executive) 2006	<p>The SFS sets out the framework and vision for taking the forestry sector forward into the future through the following three outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 environments
	The Right Tree in the Right Place – Planning for forestry and woodlands (FCS) 2010	The guidance provides advice to inform the preparation of forestry and woodland strategies and development plans. It highlights the benefits of developing new forestry and woodland strategies to inform future woodland expansion and provides advice on their preparation and content.
	FCS Corporate Plan 2008-11 (FCS) 2008	The Plan sets out specific actions under each of the seven themes contained in the Scottish Forestry Strategy and sets targets against which the three outcomes of the SFS can be measured.

	The Scottish Government's Rationale for Woodland Expansion (FCS) 2009	This Strategy sets out how the ambition stated in the SFS to increase woodland cover can best be delivered. It considers specific issues to be taken into consideration for woodland expansion and possible delivery mechanisms.
	The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal (FCS) 2009	The purpose of this policy is to provide policy direction for decisions. The policy includes guiding principles and criteria for determining the acceptability of woodland removal.
	Scottish Planning Policy (SG) 2010	SPP sets out the purpose of the planning system and core principles for its operation. Provides planning guidance on specific issues and topics.
	National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 (SG) 2009	NPF2 provides guidance on nationally important land use planning issues. In relation to D&G it looks to the strengthen key ports and strategic transport corridors; consideration of potential business opportunities through proximity to Ireland and Cumbria, particularly in terms of leisure and tourism; consideration of potential for developing the region's strengths in forestry, quality produce and as a place to live and work
	Single Outcome Agreement 2008-11 (DGC)	Identifies the region's key characteristics and sets out areas for improvement in delivering key services
	Dumfries and Galloway Structure Plan (DGC) 1999	Provides the strategic planning policy framework for decisions within the region
	Area Local Plans (Annandale & Eskdale, Nithsdale, Stewartry and Wigtown) (DGC) 2006	Provides the detailed planning policy framework for decisions within the region
	Dumfries and Galloway Proposed Local Development Plan (DGC) 2013	Once adopted will replace the Structure Plan and four Local Plans and provide a strategic policy framework for planning decisions within the region
	Ae Forest District Strategic Plan 2007-17 (Draft) (FCS) 2010	Provides guidance as to how the District will deliver its part of the Scottish Forestry Strategy
	Galloway Forest District Strategic Plan 2007-17 (Draft) (FCS) 2007-17	Provides guidance as to how the District will deliver its part of the Scottish Forestry Strategy
Biodiversity Fauna and Flora		
	Nature Conservation	The Act provides a duty for public bodies to further

	(Scotland) Act 2004	conservation of biodiversity and have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy
	Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SE) 2004	<p>The Strategy aims to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and well being of the people of Scotland now and in the future. It has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats • Increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of biodiversity and engage many more people in conservation and enhancement • Restore and enhance biodiversity in all our urban, rural and marine environments through better planning, design and practice • To develop an effective management framework that ensures biodiversity is taken into account in all decision making • Ensure that the best new and existing knowledge is available to all policy makers and practitioners
	Woods For Nature – Our Biodiversity Programme 2008-11 (FCS) 2008	<p>This Programme sets out activities to achieve the FC aim to help deliver the objectives for biodiversity in the SFS and Scottish Biodiversity Strategy through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping to halt the loss of biodiversity and reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats • broader action for biodiversity at a landscape or ecosystem scale • increasing awareness and public enjoyment of woodland biodiversity • improve knowledge of biodiversity and ensure it is integrated into decision-making
	Forests and Biodiversity Guidelines (FC) 2011	<p>Forestry Guidelines address specific elements of forest management identified within the SFS in more detail and set out good forestry practice requirements and legal requirements. Key issues are laid out under the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority habitats and species • Functional landscapes • The role of natural processes • Tree and shrub species compositions • Structure • Veteran trees and deadwood • Open, scrub and edge habitats • Riparian Zone • Habitat creation and restoration • Genetic Conservation • Problem species • Grazing and browsing

	Dumfries and Galloway Local Biodiversity Action Plan (D&G Biodiversity Partnership) 2009	<p>The LBAP aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserve, enhance and re-create biodiversity at the landscape scale • conserve genetic diversity • incorporate biodiversity into all relevant decision making • raise biodiversity awareness, understanding and engagement • allow natural processes to operate wherever practicable • enhance local distinctiveness
Population and Human Health		
	Woods For Health (FCS) 2009	The Strategy focuses on how to promote opportunities in our green environment, particularly trees, woods and forests, to improve health and life expectancy and reduce health inequalities in Scotland by supporting the health sector to make greater use of outdoor environments for health improvement activities.
	Forests for People – Access, Recreation and Tourism (FCS)2008	<p>The Strategy sets out a framework of national priorities for the management of access, recreation and tourism infrastructure. The main focus of the strategy is on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible woodland close to communities • low-key, well designed, high quality, welcoming facilities • opportunities to learn • robust locations • iconic places • access through woodlands
	D&G Core Paths Plan – Draft (DGC) 2009	The Land Reform Act requires the Council to formulate a basic framework of paths that will serve the needs of residents and visitors throughout the region.
	Woods For Learning (FCS) 2009	<p>The Strategy aims to provide places in the green environment, particularly trees, woods and forests, for learning and teaching outdoors in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help improve the life chances of young people • show forestry as an exemplar of sustainable development • show how woods and forests can contribute to combating climate change
	The Timber development Programme 2007-10 (FCS) 2007	The aim of the Programme is to contribute to the sustainable development of Scotland’s economy by enabling the timber growing and processing sectors to find the highest value and most appropriate end market

		<p>for Scotland's timber. The Programme lists proposed activities under each of the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote a predictable and stable timber supply • encourage more use of timber and timber products • enable improvements to timber supply chain efficiency • encourage and enable improvements to the quality of the growing stock
	The Scottish Government's Policy on Non-Timber Forest products (FCS) 2009	<p>The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for encouraging and supporting the sustainable development of the non-timber forest products sector in Scotland. Non-timber forest products are products of biological origin other than wood derived from forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests.</p>
	Supporting Business development (FCS) 2009	<p>The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a strategic framework for supporting business development, primarily on the FCS estate, and for stimulating wider economic development in the Scottish forest industries. The main priorities for providing support are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timber and processing sector development • new woodland creation and management of the existing resource • tourism sector developments • improve skills levels • carbon offsetting • development of the forest estate development • renewable energy • social and environmental aspects of forestry
	Regional Economic Strategy 2008-13 (DGC) 2008	<p>The strategy discusses issues faced by the region's economy and agrees a series of focused actions to address these and deliver beneficial change to economic well-being.</p>
Soil		
	The Scottish Soil Framework (SG) 2009	<p>Describes key pressures on soils, particularly climate change, relevant policies to combat those threats, and identifies the future focus for soil protection, key soil outcomes, and actions across a range of sectors.</p>
	Forests and Soils Guidelines (FC) 2011	<p>Forestry Guidelines address specific elements of forest management identified within the SFS in more detail and set out good forestry practice requirements and legal requirements. Key issues are laid out under the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acidification • compaction

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contamination • disturbance • erosion • fertility • organic matter
Water		
	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	<p>The bill makes provisions for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment and management of flood risks (implementing Directive 2007/60/EC) • local authorities' and SEPA's functions in flood risk management
	Forests and Water Guidelines (FC)2003	<p>Forestry Guidelines address specific elements of forest management identified within the SFS in more detail and set out good forestry practice requirements and legal requirements. Key issues are laid out under the following effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • siltation and turbidity • acidification • nutrient enrichment • colour, iron and manganese • pesticides • chemicals • fuel oils and lubricants • water yield • base flows • peak flows • shade and shelter
	Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plan (SEPA) 2009	<p>The Plan sets out objectives for the sustainable management of the river basin district's waterways and water bodies and provides a vision for the water environment until 2027 laying out the actions required to produce environmental improvements during the next few years and into the future.</p>
Air		
	Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA) 2007	<p>This strategy seeks to increase the use of renewable energy in the UK, as part of the overall strategy for tackling climate change and to meet the UK share of the EU target to generate 20% of the EU's energy from renewable sources by 2020.</p>
Climatic Factors		
	Climate Change (Scotland) Bill 2008	<p>The Bill sets targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and makes provision on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, energy efficiency and</p>

		reduction and recycling waste.
	Climate Change Action Plan 2009-11 (FCS) 2009	The Plan considers actions and priorities in respect of climate change in relation to forests through the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and managing existing forests • woodland creation • adapting to climate change • sustainably produced wood for energy & construction • reducing the forestry sector's carbon footprint
	Forests and Climate Change Guidelines (FC) 2011	Forestry Guidelines address specific elements of forest management identified within the SFS in more detail and set out good forestry practice requirements and legal requirements. Key issues are laid out under the following mitigation factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carbon in forest products • carbon in soil • forest ecosystem carbon balance • operational carbon footprint and adaptation factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest design and planning • adaptive forest management • species selection • adaptation and landscape ecology • environmental protection
	Changing Our Ways – Scotland's Climate Change Programme (SG) 2006	Provides national interpretation of broader climate change objectives
	Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Places duties on public bodies to contribute to the delivery of the targets set in the Act in exercising its functions
	Tomorrow's Climate, Today's Challenge: UK Climate Change Programme 2006	Sets out measures to reduce emissions target for every sector of the economy
	Planning Advice Note 84 Reducing Carbon Emissions in New Development (SG)	Provides advice on moving towards low and zero carbon developments
	Planning Advice Note 45 Renewable Technologies (SG)	Provided advice for both large and small scale renewable proposals

Material Asset		
	National Waste Plan (SG) 2003	Confirms targets for reducing waste
	Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Area Waste Plan (SEPA) 2003	The Plan provides a framework for waste management services in D&G
	Regional Transport Strategy (SWESTRANS) 2008	The Strategy sets out the transport vision for the region including the connectivity required to sustain and enhance the economy and communities, whilst minimising the environmental impacts of transport. The strategy also promotes the maintenance and improvement of transport infrastructure and services throughout the area.
Cultural Heritage		
	Scottish Historic Environment Policy (Historic Scotland) 2009	The policy provides the following functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets out policies for the historic environment • provides greater policy direction for Historic Scotland • provides a framework to inform work of organisations with a role and interest in managing the historic environment
	Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment (FCS) 2008	The purposes of the policy statement are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to communicate the forestry sector's shared understanding of how forests and woodlands contribute towards the historic environment • to promote the appreciation of the history of the forests and woodlands, and their contribution towards are cultural heritage • to confirm how the forestry sector will endeavour to deliver the required outcomes of the Scottish Ministers' strategic policies for the historic environment • to outline what practical measures the forestry sector can take to ensure that all our activities enhance the stewardship of the historic environment
	Woodlands in designed Landscapes, Forestry Practice Advice Note 3, (FC 1995)	Provides information and Advice to aid and guide woodland management in designed landscapes
	Managing Change in the Historic Environment (draft) (HS) 2013	Provides information, guidance and advice to provide clear, consistent advice to developers and applicants regarding the protection, and where appropriate,

		enhancement of the historic environment.
Landscape		
	Forest and Landscape Guidelines (FC) 2011	<p>Forestry Guidelines address specific elements of forest management identified within the SFS in more detail and set out good forestry practice requirements and legal requirements. Key issues are laid out under the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • landscape character • visual sensitivity and local distinctiveness • historic landscapes • designed landscapes • shape • landform • pattern of enclosure • scale • diversity • unity • spirit of place
	D&G Landscape Assessment (SNH) 1998	<p>This document provides a detailed assessment of the landscape character of the region and considers the likely pressures and opportunities for change in the landscape. The Assessment also assess the sensitivity of the landscape to change and includes guidelines indicating how landscape character may be conserved, enhanced or restructured as appropriate.</p>
	National Scenic Area Management Strategies (SNH/DGC) 2002	<p>Provide guidance for woodland development within these nationally recognised landscapes</p>

Appendix 2 Existing Environmental Problems

Topic	Problems Identified
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	<p>Historical loss of native woodland cover</p> <p>Fragmentation of remaining native woodlands</p> <p>Damage to native woodlands, especially ancient woodlands, through coniferisation in the 20th century</p> <p>Loss of extensive habitats such as heather moorland and acid grassland to afforestation in the 20th century, along with their associated species such as moorland birds, plants and invertebrates</p> <p>Damage to peatlands, especially raised bogs, through inappropriate afforestation in the 20th century</p> <p>Loss of trees through lack of management in non-woodland environments such as wood pastures and parklands, farmland and towns. These habitats contain the majority of D&Gs veteran trees</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>Continuing issue of declining Ageing population and increase in life expectancy</p> <p>General reduction in levels of health and increasing obesity</p> <p>Skills shortages within forestry sector</p>
Soil	<p>Effects of deep draining, deep ploughing, soil erosion and run-off, leaching of nutrients into water courses, acidification or poorly buffered soils and watercourses</p>
Water	<p>Exacerbation of acidification issues through scavenging effect of trees. Impact on upland lochs and watercourses and their associated fish and invertebrate species, especially in Galloway where there is little buffering effect from underlying geology</p> <p>Potential flood risk in various locations</p>
Air	<p>None</p>
Material Assets	<p>Need to maintain and improve timber quality to serve current markets</p> <p>Need to develop new markets</p> <p>Need to ensure continued supply of timber</p> <p>Majority of timber is delivered by road</p>
Climatic Factors	<p>Increasing targets for generation of electricity from renewable sources</p> <p>Mitigation of climate change</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Extensive historic and environment sources</p>

	Further identification of the location and nature of these resources
Landscape	Ensure protection and enhancement of the different landscape characters as described in the Dumfries and Landscape Character Assessment and any amendment