

Issue No: 14

Issue: Forestry and Woodland Strategy

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GLASGOW and
the CLYDE VALLEY
strategic development
planning authority

Issue 14	Forestry and Woodland Strategy	
Development plan reference:	Spatial Framework 2: Environmental Action	Reporter:
Body or person(s) submitting a representation raising the issue (including reference number):		
E11/1 Ashfield Land E28 Bishopton Action Group E53/3 SRG Estates E60/10 Scottish Natural Heritage		
Provision of the development plan to which the issue relates:	Forestry and Woodland Framework (page 34) Diagram 14 Forestry and Woodland spatial framework (page 35)	
Planning authority's summary of the representation(s):		
<p>E11/1 Ashfield Land The recreated plan shows that almost all land surrounding the settlements in the Strategic Development Plan area to the north of Lesmahagow and west of Lanark are preferred for urban fringe woodland expansion. This level of detail is entirely inappropriate within a strategic document and gives the impression of sterilising all urban fringe locations from future development. This effect is compounded by the supporting text, which implies that woodland creation in line with the accompanying plan is essential. Circular 1/2009: Development Planning confirms (Paragraph 14, Page 4) that "Scottish Ministers expect SDPs to be concise visionary documents".</p> <p>E28 Bishopton Action Group Schedule 1f of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan 2006 lists Bishopton as a green network priority. In addition para 8.28 of the same document states "Joint working on the Strategic Green Network Partnership for Glasgow and the Clyde Valley has confirmed that there are potential new greening projects which will support the metropolitan flagship initiatives and planned Community Growth Areas". It specifically listed Bishopton Community Forest Park. These projects were supposed to complement local green space initiatives and the government's action programme for tackling urban dereliction through promotion of Woodlands in and Around Towns programme (WIAT) and the Central Scotland Forest.</p> <p>Diagram 8 of the same document with Diagram 14 Forestry and Woodland spatial framework of the Proposed Plan and the green network areas around Bishopton are significantly different. The majority of the green network area is now categorised as unsuitable for the management or planting of trees. This is the area where the forest park would have been located. This is a significant departure from the 2006 Structure Plan and requires clarification.</p> <p>E53/3 SRG Estates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the recognition of biomass planting/woodfuel as an indicative form of development within areas of forestry and woodland; the Green Belt; Natural Resource Search Areas; and, the identified Green Network is fully 		

supported (Plan Principles, Diagram 3).

- with specific regard to biomass woodfuel, it is noted that Diagram 14 is primarily based on an analysis of the vacant, derelict and under-used land resource. However, further opportunities for forestry/biomass woodfuel production should also be identified at Damside (see attached plan) and, in the area surrounding Poniel (including Happendon Wood, Dalquahandy and Broken Cross) (plans also attached) where it will benefit from strong links to the proposed distribution and logistics Strategic Economic Investment Location.
- consistent with the requirements of Scottish Planning Policy, development plans should designate specific sites for biomass and energy from waste schemes. At the strategic level, and within the context of biomass woodfuel opportunities identified by Diagram 14, it is requested that further guidance is provided within the Proposed Plan on potential locations for biomass plants.
- it is considered that all of the SRG sites outlined in this representation have the potential to accommodate this type of alternative renewable energy development.

E60/10 Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Natural Heritage welcomes the purpose of the Forestry and Woodland spatial framework (page 34-35 and Diagram 14) in setting out spatial priorities for woodland management and expansion but considers that additional wording is required to clarify the role of the Preferred (Urban Fringe) area.

Modifications sought by those submitting representations:

E11/1 Ashfield Land

With the above statement in mind, it is submitted that Diagram 14 and paragraph 4.52 should be removed from the Proposed Strategic Development Plan and replaced with a new paragraph which states:

“Woodland expansion and creation will be considered and supported in those areas identified as Preferred in the Forestry and Woodland Framework where this would not compromise the realisation of the development strategy or the maintenance of an effective housing land supply.”

E28 Bishopton Action Group

No specific modification is sought in relation to the Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

E53/3 SRG Estates

- Diagram 14 - further opportunities for forestry/biomass woodfuel production should also be identified at Damside and in the area surrounding Poniel (including Happendon Wood, Broken Cross and Dalquahandy).
- within the context of biomass woodfuel opportunities identified by Diagram 14, it is requested that further guidance is provided within the Proposed Plan on potential locations for biomass plants.
- allowance for exceptions to Strategy Support Measure 15 where the development of sustainable renewable energy locations do not offend and ultimately work towards the Plan Vision, contributing to a low carbon

economy.

E60/10 Scottish Natural Heritage

Recommends the following text be added to Proposed Plan paragraph 4.52:

“The Preferred (Urban Fringe) area in Diagram 14 is used to highlight the great opportunity for public benefit from any woodland expansion close to settlements but does not infer blanket suitability of this area for woodland.”

Summary of responses (including reasons) by planning authority:

E11/1 Ashfield Land

Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority rejects the proposed modifications.

- The removal of the Forestry and Woodland Strategy diagram and the proposed substitute wording would undermine the sustainable development principles of the Strategic Development Plan’s Spatial Vision and Spatial Development Strategy vis-a-vis
- Diagram 14 is central to the integration of green network infrastructure and thinking, including the Forestry and Woodland Strategy, with the wider strategic development priorities – economic, social and environmental - of the Plan.
- Diagram 14 highlights the central role of forestry and woodland in the modern metropolitan strategic planning approach and is a key tool for the Forestry Commission Scotland to meet its wide-ranging objectives set by the Scottish Government’s Forestry Strategy.
- Diagram 14, therefore, is an integral component of the Development Strategy and central to its realisation.

E28 Bishopton Action Group

The area surrounding Bishopton and its Community Growth Area in Diagram 14 remains classified as a preferred area for woodland development and is wholly in line with integrated green network infrastructure as part of that long-term expansion of the village. However, the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority notes that the respondent seeks clarification of differences between Diagram 8 of the current Structure Plan (2006) and Diagram 14 of the Proposed Plan.

E53/3 SRG Estates

The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority rejects this proposed modification.

- The Proposed Plan is a high level strategic plan and all diagrams contained therein are indicative.
- Specifically naming individual sites in relation to forestry/biomass woodfuel production would not be in keeping with the spirit and focus of the Proposed Plan.
- Diagram 4: ‘Sustainable location assessment’ provides a strategic tool the Development Management authorities to assess development proposals and whether they are in accordance with the Spatial Development Strategy of the Proposed Plan or may be deemed ‘exceptions’. The Proposed Plan

therefore already contains an appropriate tool in this respect.

- Further consideration of individual planning applications will be addressed on their own particular merits by the relevant local planning authority.

E60/10 SNH

The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority notes the proposed modification.

Reporter's conclusions:

Reporter's recommendations: