

Forestry and Woodland Strategy for Glasgow City Region

Strategic Environment Assessment Post-Adoption Statement

Clydeplan
on behalf of its constituent local authorities

FEBRUARY 2021



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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the '2005 Act') requires public bodies in Scotland to carry out SEAs on their plans, programmes and strategies (PPS). SEA is a way of examining PPS as they develop, to identify any significant effects they may have on the environment. It ensures that environmental considerations are taken into account. SEA also aims to build in mitigation measures, to avoid or minimise any potentially significant adverse effects on the environment, and look for opportunities to enhance a strategy's environmental performance.
- 1.2 The Forestry and Woodland Strategy (FWS) for Glasgow City Region has been prepared by a partnership that includes the eight local authorities within Glasgow City Region area, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot and Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network. Land Use Consultants completed the analysis and development of the FWS, SEA, Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) on behalf of the partnership.
- 1.3 An updated approach has been agreed by the FWS partnership with regard to the treatment of peat and carbon soil data which was applied to FWS, and reflected in the accompanying SEA and HRA. In the updated approach there is no spatial representation of peat data within the FWS, through all of the GIS model analysis and mapping. Since the preparation of the last FWS for Glasgow City Region other policy and strategy updates have taken place which need to be reflected in the updated FWS. This includes Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 and the need for the clear reference to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and the guidelines on peat and consideration of the expansion of the Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands Special Protection Area.
- 1.4 The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Forestry and Woodland Strategy was adopted by Clydeplan's Joint Committee on the 14th December 2020. This Post Adoption Statement considers all the results and responses of the consultation process, the effects of these responses on the decision-making process and highlights the ongoing monitoring and review procedures.
- 1.5 The SEA has included the following activities:-
 - Taking into account the views of the Consultation Authorities; Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland regarding the scope and level of detail appropriate for the Environmental Report.
 - Preparing an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects on the environment of the draft document which included consideration of:
 - the baseline data relating to the current state of the environment;
 - links between the FWS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
 - existing environmental problems affecting the FWS;
 - the FWS'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 alternative chosen; and
 - monitoring measures to ensure that any unforeseen environmental effects will be identified allowing for appropriate remedial action to be taken.
- Consulting on the Environmental Report
 - Taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in making final decisions regarding the FWS
 - Committing to monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the FWS. This will also identify any unforeseen adverse significant environmental effects and to enable taking appropriate remedial action.
- 1.6 The assessment of the FWS identified a number of opportunities to mitigate environmental effects of the FWS. In addition, the assessment explores scope for further enhancement of already positive effects. The Environmental Report brought together the proposed mitigation measures emerging from the assessment. Views on these proposals were invited through a 6 week consultation from 30th September to 11th November 2020.
- 1.7 A number of environmental issues were identified in the assessment of the FWS that require to be addressed through appropriate mitigation. These range from issues arising from the broad components of the FWS, to more localised issues. In addition, specific mitigation measures are identified for the proposed developments contained in the Spatial Guidance which supports the FWS.
- 1.8 To ensure the successful delivery of the FWS and to provide appropriate consideration of the updated policy framework, a collaborative approach was taken through the formation of a partnership including Clydeplan, its Environment Topic Group, the GCV Green Network Partnership, NatureScot and Scottish Forestry. The partnership approach acknowledged the sensitivity and complexity of some of the issues that have been considered in the development of the FWS and facilitated opportunities for ownership and input from all stakeholders throughout the development of the FWS and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA). The partnership has worked with Land Use Consultants (LUC) who assisted with the necessary spatial analysis and policy development for the FWS.
- 1.9 The partnership approach was also extended to early engagement with the Consultation Authorities responsible for considering the SEA for the FWS and with NatureScot in relation to the development of the HRA. This early engagement and the involvement of all partners in the development of the FWS and the associated documents has facilitated full discussion of environmental considerations relating to the FWS; in particular the updated approach to the treatment of peat and carbon soil.

Table 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

Stage	Development of Forestry and Woodland Strategy	Strategic Environmental Assessment
Pre-Scoping	Data gathering	Early engagement with FWS Steering Group and SEA Consultation Authorities
Scoping		SEA Scoping Report submitted to Consultation Authorities
	Drafting of FWS and development of appropriate GIS mapping to inform FWS development'	Consideration of Comments by Consultation Authorities on Scoping Report
	Workshop with Steering Group and partners to consider mapping outputs and FWS development.	Assessment of draft FWS and preparation of early draft of SEA Environmental Report
	Early Draft of FWS considered by steering group and partners.	
Environmental Report	Draft FWS completed – 6 weeks public consultation	Final draft SEA Environmental Report completed – 6 weeks public consultation
	Consideration and review of consultation responses and update of draft FWS	Consideration and review of consultation responses and update of draft SEA
Committee Approval	FWS and SEA approved by Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee	
Publish and Launch	Final FWS published and launched.	Post Adoption Statement published.

1.10 Section 18(3) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 sets out the information that should be included in the Post Adoption Statement. This can be summarised as:

- how the environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan, programme, or strategy;
- how the Environmental Report has been taken into account;
- how the opinions of consultees have been taken into account;
- the reasons for choosing the strategy as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- the measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan, programme or strategy.

2.0 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the FWS

2.1 This section explains how key environmental considerations were identified and how these were taken into account in the development of the FWS. From the outset, the preparation of the environmental baseline for the SEA helped to frontload environmental considerations into the draft FWS. Subsequent consultation with the SEA Consultation Authorities assisted in highlighting key environmental issues for further consideration.

Table 2: Integration of Environmental Considerations

SEA Topic	Environmental Issue/Consideration	Integration of issue to the FWS
Biodiversity	<p>Biodiversity loss due to land use pressure, nutrient deposition and land/air/water pollution, invading species and climate change generally is accepted. The Environmental Report considers the issues relating to all habitats and species that are likely to be affected. Issue identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland cover in GCR is currently around 18%. There have been areas of new planting and restoration, however, the construction of wind energy developments has seen a reduction in the area of woodland. • Although it is known to support a disproportionate amount of biodiversity, relatively few areas of woodland and trees benefit from protection through designation. • Agricultural intensification continues to increase, resulting in the removal of traditional hedgerows and trees which are important for biodiversity • New infrastructure and urban developments require sensitive tree and hedge planting to address loss of biodiversity • Climate change is having an impact in terms of changes in rainfall and temperature 	<p>The FWS supports the protection of valued habitats, species and designated sites of biodiversity value through sensitive management of forestry operations and in the forest design planning process. The FWS targets woodland expansion in areas where benefits can be optimised such as degraded or derelict landscapes. It also seeks to improve the integrated habitat network and the Central Scotland Green Network in the area to reduce fragmentation and isolation of habitats and species.</p> <p>The potential for disturbance to species and habitats from increased public access to woodlands, particularly from intensive recreational activities is recognised. The FWS supports woodland planting that delivers species diversity and enhances biodiversity benefits. The opportunity to promote low impact methods of timber harvesting, e.g. continuous cover forestry, silvicultural practices, which will minimise the disturbance to species and damage to habitats are recognised through the FWS.</p>

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	<p>impacting species and encouraging non-native species and diseases affecting trees and other habitats.</p>	
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<p>Life expectancy has improved over recent surveys as has healthy life expectancy albeit it at a slower rate. In recent decades air quality has improved and the incidence of premature deaths has fallen, however, ozone is a pollutant on the increase. High levels of particulates are found around urban centres and congested traffic routes as is nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). The SEPA National and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments identify flood risk and flood impact to people, economy and environment. Within the Glasgow City Region Catchment, The Clyde Estuary, White Cart Water, the River Clyde at Motherwell, sections of the River Kelvin, Dumbarton and Loch Lomond/Vale of Leven areas are identified as being susceptible.</p>	<p>The FWS targets appropriate woodland creation and expansion to vacant and derelict land or stalled development sites, Woodland access improvements are also encouraged in areas where health and community need is greatest and current provision is weak.</p> <p>The FWS utilises the potential of biomass to provide low cost sustainable heat which will contribute to alleviate fuel poverty. Moreover, the FWS contributes to community and health benefits by supporting the Central Scotland Green Network objectives encouraging active travel and recreation.</p> <p>The FWS supports new woodland planting to contribute to climate change adaptation which will ameliorate the impacts of climate change through higher temperatures and increased rainfall.</p> <p>The FWS also recognises that there is potential for adverse effects on health as a result of wider adoption of woody biomass as a domestic / community-scale fuel source (increased PM10 emissions).</p>
<p>Soil</p>	<p>There is little trend data to indicate whether Scottish soils, generally considered to be in good condition, are improving in quality or degrading. The significant impacts to GCV are associated with soil sealing, decrease in biodiversity, acidification and eutrophication through pollution. Leaching is also a problem as GCV is exposed to</p>	<p>Forestry and woodland planting plays a role in the restoration of vacant and derelict land, contaminated sites, and former mines by seeking to re-use these sites for a range of woodland/ green network purposes. The FWS targets areas at risk of soil erosion or with poor soil quality as land</p>

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	<p>wetter than average conditions. Soil contamination is also associated with the central belt and GCV. Vacant and derelict land figures are at their highest levels in this region accounting for approximately 31% of all derelict and urban vacant land in Scotland</p> <p>Despite Scotland having one of the largest resources of peatland and high carbon soil, many peatlands are in a poor condition. This trend has continued and further deterioration will be caused by climate change without significant interventions.</p>	<p>cover by woodland shelters soils from wind and rain thus reducing erosion. The FWS promotes low impact methods of timber harvesting, e.g. continuous cover forestry, silvicultural practices, which will minimise the disturbance and damage to soil.</p> <p>The FWS conserves and enhances areas of functioning peatlands by encouraging the protection of existing areas from development, including the planting of woodland and forestry and by assessing the potential to restore previously afforested peatlands at the end of the economic rotation to bring long term biodiversity and carbon storage benefits. The FWS steers woodland expansion away from deeper peat soils in line with the UKFWS to avoid releasing CO₂ emissions to more suitable soil types</p>
Water	<p>Agriculture, manufacturing, abstraction, sewerage and alteration through urban development and flood protection are all having an impact on water condition; forestry operations also have an impact. Legacy mining and industrial activity continue to impact some areas, climate change, weather extremes and associated flooding due to precipitation rates are more recent concerns.</p> <p>Some of the key environmental issues for the region are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffuse source pollution can be exacerbated by run off from forestry activities • Point source pollution • Coastal flooding • Fluvial flooding 	<p>The FWS contributes to the delivery the River Basin Management Plans. The FWS aims to benefit water quality by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing soil erosion problems through provision of land cover, reduction of stock access to riverbanks, helping to stabilise riverbanks, reducing associated issues of sedimentation and transport of soil chemicals. • Addressing soil erosion problems through provision of land cover, reduction of stock access to riverbanks, helping to stabilise riverbanks, reducing associated issues of sedimentation and

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		<p>transport of soil chemicals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing percolation of rainwater into soil and reducing surface run-off. • Displacing intensive agricultural land use and associated diffuse pollution. • Promoting natural flood management as woodland can slow down and reduce run-off at a catchment scale and play a role within SUDS schemes.
Air	<p>It is anticipated that the trend in the improvement of air quality will continue. Policy that assists sustainable transport and the green network will benefit urban areas where higher emissions give greatest cause for concern for health and the environment. Continuing migration to carbon-free renewable energy will assist with meeting targets at a national level.</p>	<p>The FWS aims to protect and enhance air quality. Planting is directed to transport corridors to buffer the effect of emissions which can convey significant benefits in mitigating the effects of roads on nearby communities. Trees and woodland can also help intercept dust particles from industrial facilities and mineral workings, as well as providing visual screening and a barrier to noise.</p> <p>The FWS seeks to reduce the potential for unnecessary 'timber miles' and associated emissions by emphasising local processing and manufacture of timber products. Efficient technologies are also be promoted to reduce pollution and energy wastage.</p> <p>While the increase in woodfuel has the potential to negatively impact on air quality it has the potential to displace fossil fuel use.</p>
Climate Change	<p>Climate change has been accelerating at an unprecedented rate over the last 50 years. Since 1990 there has been a gradual yet steady decline in greenhouse gas emissions, however the system is estimated to operate to a 50 year</p>	<p>The FWS aims to encourage the uptake of biomass for renewable heat, through appropriate woodland expansion, to mitigate for climate change through increasing carbon storage and</p>

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	<p>feedback cycle and current emissions will still be contributing to the cycle in 2070s. The potential effects of climate change include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme weather, including increasing precipitation rates and increasing temperatures; and • Sea level rises and increased coastal flood risk <p>The key existing environmental issues affecting climate change include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing demand for fossil fuels for timber transport, forest operations, and indirectly for processing. • Increasing demand for low carbon fuels for heat and power(i.e. woody biomass) • Increasing use of private cars to access recreation facilities. 	<p>reducing emissions. This also includes ensuring the conservation and enhancement of existing woodland, encouraging active travel and the conservation of high carbon soils. The FWS also seeks to play a strong role in supporting climate change adaptation which includes ensuring a mix of species to promote resilience to climate change and planting in in urban areas to manage the effects of increased temperatures and rainfall, as well as this planting will support flood management.</p>
Material Assets	<p>Within the context of sustainable development and promoting a low carbon economy, material assets associated with the following areas of activity have been identified as most relevant to this FWS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Forestry • Transport; and • Waste <p>Identified risks based on trends include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decline in the farming industry and productivity, particularly in livestock • Timber harvesting has grown since the 1970s and yield will increase, however although commercially grown species grow faster due to climate change, they are weaker • Rail and road freight are likely to experience the greatest impact through climate change. Rail haulage 	<p>The FWS supports the reclamation of mineral and waste deposit sites through woodland planting. It recognises the benefits that forestry has in the remediation of vacant and derelict land through bioremediation and improving environmental quality of a site; contributing to green network objectives and removing blight. Furthermore, waste arising from forestry is sustainable relative to other forms of development/land use. The FWS protects key mineral resources from sterilisation through inappropriate afforestation. New woodland planting is directed away from productive farmland areas. The delivery of multi-use forests and sustainable transportation of wood and forest products is supported in the FWS.</p>

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	<p>is now increasing, however, coal and minerals are the main commodities transported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel by private car is still the most popular mode of private transport. • Recycling rates have increased over the past 10 years, however, a significant amount of waste still ends in landfill. <p>Economic development within rural areas and agricultural change which has a limited impact on landscape character needs to be supported. Sustainable forestry should be delivered that supports biodiversity, helps to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and creates woodlands for recreational use.</p>	
Cultural Heritage	<p>Natural and manmade impacts affect the historic environment. Threats and vulnerabilities tend to be site and environment specific. Climate change will create significant pressure on cultural fabric and landscapes. Storm events, flooding, rising sea-levels and coastal damage will adversely impact our heritage with exposed sites being at greatest risk. As well as this, such sites could experience physical erosion associated with weather extremes, biological and chemical undermining. Also invasive plant species associated with climate change could also adversely impact the resilience of our cultural heritage. Other pressures are anticipated to come from land use changes to undeveloped areas which can impact cultural heritage.</p>	<p>The FWS seeks to conserve and enhance the cultural and built environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring woodland expansion safeguards the fabric and setting of heritage assets. • Contributing to the character and significance of important historic landscapes. • Promoting responsible access to the appreciation of cultural heritage via the green network. <p>The FWS recognises that there is potential for damage to unidentified historic archaeological features on land for woodland expansion, and for damage to occur to assets as a result of irresponsible access and activities. However the FWS also seeks to promote careful planning and design of</p>

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		proposals in order to avoid any risk of damage occurring.
Landscape	<p>There are several extensive areas of local landscape designation across the GCR area, most predominantly at the northern edge and south western uplands. There are several Geological Review Sites within the GCV boundary. Landscape character is affected by incremental development not necessarily based upon material expansion. Landscapes are being considerably altered by the energy sector and renewables industry. Some areas are cleared of woodland with turbines erected in their place. Renewables and the energy sector pose the most significant threat to the landscape and geodiversity component of SEA.</p>	<p>The FWS conserves and enhances the character of the region's landscapes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering woodland expansion proposals to appropriate locations and avoiding impacts on local landscape character through inappropriate afforestation, as outlined in Landscape Character Assessments for each of the local authorities within Glasgow City Region • Supporting measures to promote good woodland design and appropriate diversity. • Encouraging the restructuring of woodlands to increase structural and species diversity. • Encouraging the use of woodland to root new development and existing settlements in the landscape. • Using woodland to enhance degraded urban fringes and transport corridors. • Supporting the management of existing woodland resources. • Supporting woodland planting to reflect local landscape character.

2.2 A high level of mitigation is already built into the woodland creation and management process due to the requirements of the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, felling permissions and grant

administration procedure along with compliance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).

- 2.3 UKFS details how sustainable forestry will be undertaken by setting out relevant legislation and good practice which all forestry proposals must comply with. It is the standard against which all woodland proposals are assessed, covering biodiversity, climate change, historic environment, landscape, people (including access), soil and water. The Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 (SFS) outlines how, through compliance with UKFS, the principles of sustainable forest management will be implemented in practice. The SFS has also been subject to SEA and significant environmental effects have been addressed through this process. As the FWS sits below these higher tier plans and the EIA requirements for forestry projects, the potential for significant environmental effects from the FWS is relatively low.
- 2.4 Commencing the SEA process alongside the initial development of the FWS made it possible to amend the guidance in the FWS to address potential environmental issues as they were identified.
- 2.5 The preparation of the Forestry and Woodland Strategy through to adoption has incorporated the aims of SEA. It has also benefited from undertaking early dialogue to ensure that the views of Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), NatureScot (formerly SNH) and the Historic Environment Scotland regarding the scope and level of detail that was appropriate for the SEA of development plans were taken onto account. The Steering Group responsible for the development of the FWS also had a significant level of involvement from the early stages of development of the FWS and SEA.
- 2.6 In order to allow early consideration of the environmental effects of the approach to the FWS, a high level assessment of the environmental effects arising has been undertaken. Care was taken to ensure that the Environmental baseline data for GCR was as current as possible; ensuring that the SEA assessment was well informed. An important part of the process when integrating environmental information was the identification and evaluation of the links between the FWS and other relevant strategies, policies, plans, programmes and the environmental protection objectives. This part of the process was embedded into the development of the FWS Environmental Report at an early stage.
- 2.7 Continuous consultation and engagement with key agencies and stakeholders was carried out at regular intervals at key stages and throughout the development of the FWS and the SEA Environmental Report. Wider consultation was central to the development of the FWS and the SEA process. This dialogue and collaborative approach has resulted in a more robust FWS and assessment by demonstrating the transparency of decision-making.

3.0 Main Findings of the SEA

- 3.1 The aims and objectives of the FWS are likely to have broadly positive effects on the environment. Generally, positive effects are expected to arise in relation to biodiversity, with significant effects highlighted due to the creation of new habitats and providing new and enhanced links within the ecological network. In relation to population and human health, there are overall positive effects from the FWS aims and objectives with particular benefits from community and economic objectives. With regard to soil, a mixture of positive and negative effects are identified. Opportunities for the remediation of post-industrial landscapes, vacant and derelict land and reducing soil contamination from agricultural pollutants and runoff are recognised, however the potential effects of woodland expansion into areas of high carbon soil including peat are identified. Mitigation is provided through the FWS to address this issue.
- 3.2 A significant positive effect is identified in relation to adapting to climate change, through sustainable flood management. In addition, in relation to climate change objectives, there are particularly strong positive impacts resulting from new woodland planting in urban greenspaces to support climate change adaptation and the creation of woodland increasing rates of carbon sequestration.
- 3.3 These results reflect the wide ranging benefits that can be realised through woodland creation and management in line with the FWS plus the existing safeguards built into the UK Forestry Standard and statutory requirements such as Habitats Regulations Appraisal and Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 3.4 Generally positive cumulative effects are identified in relation to each of the SEA themes. Positive cumulative effects are particularly strong in relation to biodiversity, population and human health, soils, climatic factors, air, and landscape. The enhancement and creation of woodland in relation to most of the above SEA themes will also have secondary effects on a variety of other themes. For example, the expansion of woodland, particularly riparian, may improve water quality by intercepting pollutants. This will have secondary benefits for biodiversity.
- 3.5 Some synergistic effects may arise from the FWS. FWS policies which promote improved landscape quality and active travel, alongside the encouragement of local timber production, markets and supply chains, may provide economic benefits for the region by attracting investment and therefore improving access to employment opportunities. Potential negative cumulative and secondary effects could potentially arise through the expansion of woodland on to high carbon soils. Particularly in relation to soils, climatic and cultural factors and cultural heritage, however, mitigation is provide through the FWS to address these concerns.

3.6 The FWS has been informed by several stages of consultation with GCR local authorities and relevant key agencies. The consultation involved amendments to the text which reflect key areas of change relevant to the SEA findings. Key areas of mitigation have included:

- Increasing the contribution of woodland and forestry to ecosystem restoration and biodiversity;
- Ensuring the protection of peatland and high carbon soils;
- Enhancing the benefits of urban woodland;
- Recognising the challenges of climate change related pests and diseases to the woodland resource;
- Increasing the role of woodland and forestry in contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation

3.7 The FWS provides broad locational guidance through a spatial framework that considers the landscape types within GCR. The SEA also provides, therefore, a summary of environmental effects of the spatial framework when considered by SEA topic. It focusses on the land within each landscape type which is also identified as preferred and potential land for forestry and woodland expansion which provides the context for the assessment findings.

4.0 FWS Consultation Feedback

4.1 The six week period for representations closed on 11th November 2020. In total ten responses were received in relation to the Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy document and NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and SEPA responded to the SEA Environmental Report in their role as Consultation Authorities.

4.2 A number of the respondents welcomed the Draft Forestry and Woodland Strategy and supported the potential identified within the document for the delivery of sustainable, multi-functional woodlands. They recognised the contribution that the FWS could make to reducing the impacts of climate change and improving biodiversity. More explicit support of the role in the FWS in supporting the Ecological Crisis and support for native woodlands through the FWS were raised and appropriate small revisions were made to reflect these concerns. For further details of the consultation responses and analysis reference should be made to the appropriate report and appendices to the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority Joint Committee¹.

1

<https://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/Document.ashx?cz=JKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=Una35MRY%2fQ2qefpYEEEXUf9TPTmpC5C4eYve6XX8tznqOxKXIL%2fq%2fuA%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lvw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNh225F5QMaQWcPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlq%3d%3d=hFfiUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFfiUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FqPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qij0ag1Pd993jsyOJgFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBuxOr1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d>

- 4.3 The role that the FWS will have in providing a strategic context for the development of forestry strategies by Local Authorities in the future was also welcomed. Only one formal objection was received and this has been resolved through a small text change which will provide further clarity on how the document will relate to specific development management proposals that are not involving forestry.

Comments on the Environmental Report

- 4.4 The Consultation Authorities welcomed that the comments provided at the Scoping stage were reflected in the Environmental Report. There was also general support for the scope and conclusions of the assessment as well as the mitigation measures that were identified to address any potential negative impacts. Aside from the feedback from the Consultation Authorities, no specific comments on the draft Environmental Report were received from respondents to the consultation on the draft FWS.
- 4.5 The table below provides further detail on the comments made by the Consultation Authorities and the response to the comments. As with the comments and updates associated with the FWS, these changes have not significantly altered the SEA or the conclusions reached as a result of the assessment.

Table 3: Responses from Consultation Authorities to SEA Environmental Report

Respondent	Comments	Response and Action
HES (SEA ER) General Comment	The environmental report clearly sets out the approach to the assessment and sets out an appropriate baseline against which to test the themes and aims of the FWS. The use of SEA Objectives and sub criteria for the assessment is welcomed and we can confirm that we are content to agree with the findings of the assessment as they relate to the historic environment.	Welcomed and noted
HES (SEA ER) Detailed Comments	<i>Table B9: PPS Cultural Heritage</i> While we welcome the recognition of relevant plans programmes and strategies relating to the historic environment it should be noted that the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) has superseded the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement of 2016. As a general point, we note that a number of the links in both the FWS and its environmental report require updating (such as the link to Forests and the Historic Environment).	Welcomed and noted Minor updates to document text
NATURESCOT SEA ER General Comment	Need for clarity around the purpose of the FWS within this Assessment (i.e. that it is a general strategy for the future of forestry and woodland in the Clydeplan area – not a strategy for woodland expansion specifically). We would also suggest that there may be a need to better recognise the priority that should be given to carbon-rich soils & peatlands (as both a habitat and a source of climate change mitigation) throughout the Assessment	The FWS has been developed within the context of national guidance ² which is intended to guide the future development of forestry and woodlands; supporting the expansion of woodlands to deliver multiple benefits. Woodland expansion is a primary consideration of the FWS, however, the FWS also considers opportunities for management, protection and enhancement of key woodland habitats and species. The importance of carbon rich soils and

² <https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/96-the-right-tree-in-the-right-place-planning-for-forestry-and-woodlands/viewdocument>

Respondent	Comments	Response and Action
		<p>peatland as a habitat and in relation to their role with regard to climate change mitigation are recognised and considered within the context of national guidance and the FWS providing a broad locational framework. More detailed references would be appropriate in the local FWS the Local Authorities are now required to prepare or through future monitoring and review of the GCR FWS.</p>
<p>NATURESCOT SEA ER Detailed Comments</p>	<p><u>Chapter 3 – Environmental Baseline Table 3.1 - Baseline Data Sources (p. 25-26)</u> Soil SEA Topic, it is disappointing that our Carbon and Peatland 2016 Map was not included as a data source.</p>	<p>Full consideration was made by the FWS Steering Group regarding the accuracy and suitability of the various peat data sets that were available, including NatureScot’s Carbon and Peatland 2016 Map. An agreement was reached between NatureScot and SF regarding the treatment of the peat data in the FWS analysis and FWS. There is to be no spatial representation of the peat data and this would be replaced by policy wording or caveats in place of the mapping within the FWS.</p>
	<p>Landscape SEA Topic, the Landscape Character Type map and Wild Land data could also have been usefully included as data sources.</p>	<p>Noted and updated.</p>
	<p><u>Chapter 4 – SEA Methodology Table 4.1 - SEA Framework (p. 50-51)</u> Sub-criteria have been utilised here rather than questions. Questions are not essential, they can help to focus the assessment. The sub-criteria actually used are a little</p>	<p>Noted Monitoring and review of the FWS will provide an opportunity for clarification of the sub-criteria used in the SEA to facilitate greater focus or further</p>

Respondent	Comments	Response and Action
	vague in some cases and could be expanded upon.	explanation where required.
	<p><u>Chapter 7 - Monitoring</u> <u>Table 7.1: Monitoring (p. 92)</u> The inclusion of a suggestion of biodiversity enhancement is welcome here in the Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna Indicator, however, could be more specific and measureable.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Monitoring and review of the FWS will provide an opportunity to clarify what is meant by biodiversity enhancement and how this might be measured.</p>
	<p><u>Appendix B - Relationship with Other Plans, Programmes & Strategies (PPS) and Baseline Maps</u> <u>Figure B.11 - ANH Carbon and Peatland Map</u> We are pleased to note that this data was included in the assessment. We note however that while Class 1 and Class 2 peatland is shown, Class 5 degraded peatland is not.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>None</p>
	<p><u>Appendix C - Assessment Matrices</u> These matrices are somewhat unusually set out – i.e. combined by SEA Obj rather than by the FWS Objectives – which makes it less easy to understand the overall impact of each of the FWS Objectives.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>None</p>
	<p>Biodiversity SEA Theme: It would have been good to have also included some enhancement measures impact on deep peat and carbon-rich soils.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Monitoring and review of the FWS will provide an opportunity include appropriate enhancement measures for deep peat and carbon rich soils.</p>
	<p>Soil SEA Theme: Acknowledgement of peat and carbon-rich soils (or “high carbon”) soils in terms of mitigation/ enhancement is welcome. However it would be preferable if the precise wording that we have previously provided for the FWS itself was used here (or something very like it), as this included both a requirement for peat surveys and a need to demonstrate that there would be no adverse impacts</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The FWS is indicative and reference is made throughout the document to site-specific constraints and opportunities existing within each land classification which should most appropriately be dealt with through detailed site assessment for individual proposals.</p>

Respondent	Comments	Response and Action
	Climatic Factors SEA Theme: references to peat and carbon-rich soils are made in the mitigation/enhancement, but a more detailed requirement for surveys and a demonstration of no adverse impacts would be more welcome.	Noted Mapping provided in this FWS is necessarily indicative and reference is made throughout the document to site-specific constraints and opportunities existing within each land classification which should most appropriately be dealt with through detailed site assessment for individual proposals.
	Landscape SEA Theme, there is reference to 'protected landscapes' and 'sensitive landscapes' – but no mention at all of landscape character types as we suggested in our SEA scoping advice.	Noted and updated.

5.0 Reasons for Selecting the FWS as Adopted

- 5.1 The 2005 Act requires that the Responsible Authority to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of any reasonable alternatives to the FWS, taking into account its objectives and geographical scope. The extent to which alternatives could be considered 'reasonable' was influenced by the existing legislative and policy context the document must reference and align with (e.g. Scotland's Forestry Strategy), and current Scottish Government commitments and targets such as the woodland creation target in the Climate Change Plan.
- 5.2 The consideration of alternatives has focused on four different levels of woodland expansion. These alternatives are focused on low, moderate, and high levels of expansion, with a fourth scenario based on the broad environmental capacity of the area to support woodland expansion. The alternatives were considered within the land categorisation, as set out in 'The Right Tree in the Right Place', i.e. preferred, potential and sensitive. This is intended to be a strategic process, giving a general impression of an area's suitability or otherwise for woodland expansion, however, this approach was considered appropriate for the development of strategic, locational guidance where site specific assessment will still be utilised to determine the suitability of proposals at the local level.
- 5.3 The alternatives were assessed within the framework of the same overarching strategy, but based on the delivery of different levels of woodland within each land category. Table 4 below provides a summary of the scenarios used, and the assessment of the alternatives.

Table 4: Assessment of Alternatives – Selection of the Preferred Option.

Scenario	Assessment of Alternatives
Scenario 1 – Low-level expansion	
<p>A relatively conservative level of woodland creation activity that offers limited expansion on existing cover – increasing from 18% to 19% of land area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland cover: 19% • Additional woodland: 4,593ha • Increase over existing: 8% 	<p>Low level expansion offers minimal adverse effects as it avoids woodland expansion within all ‘sensitive’ areas. Minor positive effects are identified in relation to most of the SEA topics, except with relation to soils. However, this scenario does not bring enhancement to the SEA topics when compared to the other scenarios.</p>
Scenario 2 – Moderate expansion	
<p>A more ambitious level of expansion, necessitating more intensive activity and substantially greater conversion of land to woodland (a little below double that of Scenario 1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland cover: 21% • Additional woodland: 8,464 ha • Increase over existing: 8% 	<p>Moderate levels of expansion bring some aspects of uncertainty into the assessment, in relation to biodiversity, soils, cultural heritage, climate change, and landscape. This reflects some expansion within ‘sensitive’ areas. Overall minor positive effects are identified in relation to the other SEA objectives</p>
Scenario 3 – High-level expansion	
<p>A more ambitious level of expansion, necessitating more intensive activity and substantially greater conversion of land to woodland (nearly three times that of Scenario 1).</p> <p>The scenario would, however, represent a major change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland cover: 22% • Additional woodland: 12,788ha • Increase over existing: 14% 	<p>The high level of expansion brings some elements of uncertainty, in relation to protected biodiversity assets, soil resources, cultural heritage, climate change and landscape. As with the moderate expansion levels, this reflects expansion within ‘sensitive’ areas. The higher levels of expansion also bring positive effects in relation to the other SEA objectives with particular positive benefits for population and human health and the water environment in urban areas. Strong positive effects are identified in relation to material assets and expansion of woodland in upland areas, supporting the timber resource.</p>
Scenario 4 – Notional environmental capacity-based approach (Preferred Option)	
<p>A more ambitious level of expansion, necessitating more intensive activity and substantially greater conversion of land to woodland (a little over double that of Scenario 1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland cover: 21% • Additional woodland: 9,190ha • Increase over existing: 15% 	<p>The notional capacity scenario offers a moderate level of woodland expansion, with limited expansion within sensitive areas. Expansion within more sensitive landscapes is framed within direction to support the characteristics of those landscapes. Notional capacity therefore provides a model to achieve moderate levels of</p>

Scenario	Assessment of Alternatives
	woodland expansion, whilst protecting key environmental interests. It allows the sensitive response to key characteristics to facilitate woodland expansion and achieve maximum benefits.

5.4 Whilst individual proposals that come forward in line with the FWS will still need to be assessed, it is likely that any negative impacts can be addressed through sensitive design in line with the principles detailed in the FWS.

6.0 Monitoring

6.1 Section 19 of the 2005 Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act requires the Responsible Authority to monitor significant environmental impacts arising as a result of the implementation of the plan, programme or strategy. The purpose of the monitoring is to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial action to be taken.

6.2 Monitoring should be undertaken in line with the proposed review period for the FWS and will play an important role in measuring the success of the FWS and identifying areas for review. Table 5 below outlines the proposed key topics for which monitoring should be undertaken.

Table 5: Monitoring

Topic	Issue	Data Source	Indicator
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Habitat networks: broadleaved woodland Loss of key habitat links Creation of new links Protection of core areas of biodiversity significance Total area Opportunities for species movement and migration as a result of climate change	IHN woodland dataset Phase 1 habitat Survey data where available Relevant biological records centres –records LBAP monitoring SNH	Maintenance of core areas of woodland and key links Increase in total area of physical and functional connectivity Species distribution
	Distribution of invasive species	Scottish Biodiversity Forum Plantlife	Decrease in distribution of invasive species
	Loss of structural diversity in plantations to satisfy economic demands of timber production	SF funding database Forest Design Plans Illegal felling incidences	Increase in structural diversity of woodland
	Designated site condition	SNH site condition monitoring	No decrease in site condition associated with woodland planting or changes in hydrology associated with woodland planting
	Type of woodland	National Forest Inventory	Increase in area of woodland by all types
Soil/Climatic factors	Area of peat soil	SNH Peatland dataset / Forestry Commission Scotland	No loss of deep peat / functional peatland habitat to forestry operations

Topic	Issue	Data Source	Indicator
		SEPA monitoring	
	Area of peat soil restored	SNH Peatland dataset / Forestry Commission Scotland SEPA monitoring	Rehabilitation of peat soils (ha) previously affected by forestry
	Prime agricultural land	JHI	No loss of prime agricultural land to forestry and woodland
	Vacant and derelict land	Scottish Government Vacant and Derelict Land Survey / Local authorities	Increase in area of vacant and derelict land reclaimed by woodland planting (ha)
	Area of woodland	Scottish Forestry	Increase in area of woodland
Landscape	Local landscape character and protected landscapes	Regional / local LCAs	No adverse changes to local landscape character through inappropriate afforestation
Air quality	Pollution and emissions resulting from the timber transportation and processing	SEPA Scottish Government Statistics	No increase in pollution and emissions resulting from timber transportation and processing
	Levels of particulate emissions from promotion of wood fuel technologies	Scottish Government	No increase in particulate emissions
Historic Environment	Quality of archeology and the historic environment	Historic Scotland WoSAS HER data	No adverse impacts on cultural heritage resources as a result of forestry activities Enhanced access and understanding of

Topic	Issue	Data Source	Indicator
			cultural heritage resources
Population and human health	Levels of use of woodlands for recreation	Scottish Forestry and local authority access monitoring	Increased levels of use of forestry and woodland for recreation
	Woodland path network	Scottish Forestry and local authority access monitoring	Increase in length of path network
	Community involvement in woodland planning, management and ownership	Scottish Forestry grant scheme monitoring and local authority data	Increase in community involvement
Water	Water quality	SEPA	Improvement in water quality in catchments with woodland planting
	Flood risk	SEPA	Area of woodland planted in areas of flood risk and flood risk catchments

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 The SEA process has had a positive effect on the production of the FWS for Glasgow City Region. The process of identifying both significant and negative environmental effects has enabled mitigation measures to be built in to the FWS. It is important to monitor the effects of implementing the FWS as this will provide the mechanism to identify potential unforeseen adverse environmental effects which will assist with the development of any future FWS, particularly for the emerging strategies that will be developed by local authorities within Glasgow City Region.
- 7.2 Clydeplan is content that the level and scope of the SEA is proportionate and that, given the high-level nature of the FWS, this conclusion is also supported by feedback from the Consultation Authorities on the Environmental Report.
- 7.3 This Post Adoption Statement concludes the SEA process, setting out the ways in which the findings of the SEA Environmental Report and the views expressed during the consultation on the SEA Environmental Report, as well as on the draft FWS, have been taken into account within the finalised FWS.

Part 1

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

Part 2

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

Forestry and Woodland Strategy for Glasgow City Region

The Responsible Authority is:

Clydeplan (Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority)

Part 3

Contact name Catherine Lambert

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Signature & date Catherine Lambert
26th February 2021

Post-adoption SEA statement for:

Clydeplan (Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority)

Adopted on:

14th December 2020

Responsible Authority:

Clydeplan (Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority)

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.

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.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk

Office Address

Contact name, address and telephone number

Floor 2, Room 29, 40 John Street, City Chambers East, Glasgow, G1 1JL.

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The PPS, as adopted along with the Environmental Report and post adoption statement documents may be inspected at:

Currently available at www.clydeplan-sdpa.gov.uk

Name of Responsible Authority

Clydeplan (Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority)

Title of PPS

Forestry and Woodland Strategy for Glasgow City Region

Purpose of PPS

The Forestry and Woodland Strategy seeks to set an appropriate policy context to support forestry and woodland planting and management across Glasgow City Region.

What prompted the PPS

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006

Subject (e.g. transport)

Land use planning (Forestry)

Period covered

Up to 2030

Frequency of updates

As required, with opportunity for review every 5 years.

Area of PPS

(e.g. geographical area)

Glasgow City Region incorporating the administrative boundaries of East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire (excluding that part covered by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority).

**Summary of nature/content of
PPS**

The Forestry and Woodland Strategy seeks to set an appropriate policy context to support forestry and woodland planting and management across the Glasgow City Region and will provide broad strategic locational guidance and environmental advice to those seeking to expand or manage forestry and woodlands.

The FWS for the Glasgow City Region has been developed to establish an appropriate regional target for woodland expansion by making a sustainable and achievable contribution to the Scottish Government's national aspirations set in the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029.

The FWS seeks to secure green networks and high quality multiple benefit forestry and woodlands that will achieve a wide range of objectives and complement partner strategies. It will also guide development and delivery of grant support for forestry activities.

The Councils will also have regard to the Strategy when preparing their own Forestry and Woodland Strategies and it may be a material consideration in planning decisions.

Date adopted

14th December 2020

Contact name & job title

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Date

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