

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 9th FEBRUARY 2015
REPORT ON: STRATEGIC FOREST PLAN
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
REPORT NO: 49-2015

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval of the Strategic Forest Plan 2015 – 2020.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of the Strategic Forest Plan 2015 - 2020 and approves the plan for consultation with key stakeholders.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The adoption of the Strategic Forest Plan will enable external funds to be obtained from the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) in 2015.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Reference is made to Article II of the Minute of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 26th January 2009 (Report No. 447-2008 refers) when approval was given for the Tree and Urban Forestry Policy. The Strategic Forest Plan falls under this policy and delivers on a Key Action ('Prepare site specific management statements with specific targeted objectives') from Section 8.1('Management Opportunities in Existing Woodlands'). Other Key Actions from Section 8.1 are addressed elsewhere within the Greenspace Team.

4.2 The Strategic Forest Plan will be used to:

- prioritise resources, by collating all woodland objectives into one strategy; and
- ensure that Dundee City Council meets Forestry Commission Scotland criteria, enabling us to access national funding streams in 2015.

4.3 A copy of the Strategic Forest Plan is contained in Appendix I. Forestry Commission Scotland have set out the structure for the document. It comprises four parts, which together set out a strategy for managing the city's woodlands.

Part A describes the sites' locations and history, the long-term management proposals and description of the woodland structure. The Plan contains location maps in *Appendix I*, while *Appendix II* contains structural and age information on the woodland sites.

Part B describes the survey data compiled for each of the sites. The scoping reports are included in *Appendix III*.

Part C describes the constraints and opportunities at each site, plus assessments of the sites' ecological components, social impacts and provisions, including public access. *Appendix IV* contains the concept maps - one relating to each site detailing on-site issues and desirable work including new infrastructure or planting.

Part D contains management proposal information having assessed the concept maps and scoping reports. *Appendix V* contains thinning maps for all sites.

- 4.4 The information in the Strategic Forest Plan was obtained through site visits, surveys and scoping reports. Initial consultation with Forestry Commission Scotland has raised no major problems. Following the formal approval of the plan by the City Council, it will be submitted for consultation to SNH, Historic Scotland and SEPA who will have 4 weeks in which to inform us of their comments. If any major issues are raised, these will be communicated to the committee and the report will be updated.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Anti-poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.
- 5.2 The Tree and Urban Forestry Policy was subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in 2009; as this Strategic Forest Plan falls under a key action of that policy, the report has not been subjected to a further SEA.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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6th January 2015

STRATEGIC FOREST PLAN

Dundee City woodlands

2015 – 2025

Contents

- Part A - Description of Woodlands** 3
 - Property details..... 3
 - Introduction to the Strategic Forest Plan 3
 - Location and background 3
 - Stakeholder..... 12
 - Long term vision and management objectives 12
 - Woodland Description 13
- Part B – Survey data**..... 17
 - Tree Health Surveys 17
 - Site specifics..... 18
- Part C – Analysis** 22
 - Constraints and opportunities..... 22
 - Landscape Assessment 22
 - Archaeological Assessment 23
 - Historical Environment..... 24
 - Ecological Assessment..... 25
 - Herbivore assessment..... 27
 - Social impacts assessment 27
 - Public Access 28
- Part D – Management Proposals** 32
 - Silvicultural policy 32
 - Thinning, felling and restructuring 32
 - New planting..... 32
 - Management of Open Areas 32
 - Protection and Maintenance..... 32
 - Biodiversity Management 33
 - Key species 33
 - Management of deadwood 33
 - Wetland Management 33
 - Herbivore impacts..... 34
 - Tree health and Biosecurity..... 34
 - Control of invasive species..... 34
 - Public Access 34

Part A - Description of Woodlands

Property details

Dundee's woodlands are owned by Dundee City Council (DCC, 3 City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BA). Maintenance is delivered by the Council's Environment Department. All grant monies to be paid to DCC.

Main Location Code (if applicable) (as already held by SGRPID in the IACS record): 126 / 0022

Business Reference Number: 114345

Challenge Fund Contract Reference Number: 28382

Introduction to the Strategic Forest Plan

The City of Dundee covers 6515 hectares and of this total amount, 4.3% (279 hectares) is woodland. There is a mixture of woodland, varying both in species composition and extent, including both old estate woodlands and new plantations. The woodland in Dundee provides multiple benefits for the city, including reduction of CO₂, pollution and noise, as well as mitigating the effects of flooding and extreme weather. They provide attractive, relaxing places for the residents of the city to walk in and enjoy and help to protect the city's biodiversity.

A strategic approach is required for their management to make sure that all areas of appropriate woodland are managed properly; as such this Strategic Forest Plan has been created. This strategic plan coordinates well with several other plans that are current in Dundee including the Single Outcome Agreement of the Dundee Partnership 2013 - 2017; the Public Open Space Strategy 2008 – 2011; the Outdoor Access Strategy 2012 - 2017 and the Tree and Urban Forestry Policy 2009.

This plan also adheres to the guidelines laid out in the UK Forestry Standard. Of particular importance in Dundee are those guidelines relating to Forests and Biodiversity; Forests and Historic Environment; Forests and People and Forests and Landscape. There are also Forestry Commission Scotland Guidance notes for specific subjects of relevance such as Forestry Operations and wildlife; Forestry Operations and bird disturbance; Forestry Operations and red squirrels and Forestry Operations and protected species.

Part A describes the sites' locations and history, the long-term management proposals and description of the woodland structure. Location maps are provided in *Appendix I*, while *Appendix II* contains structural and age information on the woodland sites.

Part B describes the survey data compiled for each of the sites. The scoping reports are included in *Appendix III*.

Part C describes the constraints and opportunities found at each site, plus assessments of the sites' ecological components and social impacts and provisions, including public access. *Appendix IV* contains the concept maps - one relating to each site detailing on-site issues and desirable work including new infrastructure or planting.

Part D contains management proposal information having assessed the concept maps and scoping reports. *Appendix V* contains thinning maps for all sites.

Location and background

The woodlands are listed and detailed as separate units, as they are spread over the whole city area. There are 27 sites in total and 18 of these have been funded by the Woodlands In and Around Towns scheme (WIAT) since 2005. Nine new sites have been included in this plan –all are found on the National Forest Inventory.

Recent severe storm damage has affected many woodlands in Dundee, so there is a real need to attend to woodland and maintain the trees in order to reduce the risk of dangerous wind-blow in the

future, particularly in relation to road and pedestrian traffic within and surrounding the parks, as well as surrounding residents. It is also crucial to promote Dundee's strong arboricultural heritage and to continue to attract locals and visitors to this landmark for recreation and enjoyment. In Appendix I are the location maps for all the singular areas of woodland.

Balgay Cemetery (NO373307)

Balgay Cemetery (9.56 hectares) is part of Greater Balgay and was developed from 1871 as a park, having been opened by the Earl of Dalhousie. It is situated directly adjacent to Balgay Hill and is divided into a new and an old section – it is just the old section to the north of the Main Drive that is included in this plan. The main access points are from Glamis Road to the north and west and Elliot Road to the south. There are many mature specimen trees situated here, with large conifers such as redwoods, spread throughout the park. Both maturity and the storm damage of the last few years has affected many of the trees here.

Balgay Hill (NO379307)

Balgay Hill covers an area of 17.5 hectares and is located in the West End of Dundee between Lochee Park to the North, Balgay Cemetery to the west and Victoria Park to the South. Together, all these sites are known as Greater Balgay and are classed as a City Park in the Dundee Public Open Space Strategy. The park boundary has been extended to include the public open space to the east where a number of community planting projects have taken place. Balgay Hill is located within 500 metres of Lochee which contains several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. It is a prominent feature of 146 metres in height, which can be seen throughout the city.

The Council Ranger Service regularly conducts a variety of tours for local schools and adults. There is also an active and successful 'Friends of' group in the park. The mature conifers at the entrance to the park at Glamis Road were planted in celebration of the Park opening (1870), by the Earl of Dalhousie and city officials. Access is good throughout, with main tarmac drives and built paths with steps where needed.

Baxter Park (NO415314)

Baxter Park was opened in 1863 and was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, an influential landscape architect and was handed over to the City Corporation of Dundee in 1903. It is located in the Maryfield ward close to the centre of Dundee, on the main Arbroath Road. It can also be accessed from Baxter Park Terrace to the west and Pitkerro Road to the north. Baxter Park is within 500 metres of three of the 15% most deprived datazones – Stobswell, The Glens and Dundee City Docks and Wellgate.

It is a very popular walking and dog exercise spot. There are also regular events held here, many by the Council Ranger Service and Friends of Baxter Park and it obtained Green Flag status in 2009. Many of the trees within the park are thought to have been planted in the 1860's, which makes them around 140 years old. The planting is typical of Victorian parks, with large lime and beech tree avenues and notable elm specimens, including a large Camperdown elm.

Belmont Estate (NO286436)

Belmont Estate was gifted to Dundee City Council in the 1940s and was previously owned by Sir James Caird, and prior to that, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman. The whole estate covers 43 hectares and contains Belmont Castle, a stables and a campground, as well as large stands of dense coniferous woodland and a playing field. The castle itself was leased to the Church of Scotland but now lies empty; the campground is leased to the Scottish Outdoor Education Centre. There are paths throughout the woodland allowing for public access and there is also a playing field and playground that are publicly available.

Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve (NO475310)

Broughty Ferry LNR is located on the north side of Broughty Ferry Esplanade to the east of Dundee and was declared an LNR in June 2000. Its total area amounts to 3.9 hectares and it lies to the north of the citywide Green Circular and just south of the main railway line from Dundee to Aberdeen. The Dundee Countryside Ranger Service manage the habitat here and regularly run school and volunteer groups here. It is highly regarded for its wildlife value, with semi-mature broadleaved woodland, as well as dune scrub and dune slack grassland. It is adjacent to Barnhill Rock Garden, which has achieved Green Flag status.

Caird Park (NO407331)

Caird Park is located on the North side of Dundee within the Strathmartine ward and is bordered by the A90 road at the South and East. The park was formally opened to the public in 1920 by the sister of Sir James Caird, the local benefactor who bought the land in 1912. It is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Fintry, Downfield and Linlathen.

The park (total area 111 hectares) is ideal for active recreation and walking, with golf courses, golf practice area, athletic stadium, velodrome, and various sports pitches. It also contains many fine heritage tree specimens, including an oak avenue and several grand copper beeches. Within the park runs the Gelly burn, which feeds the larger Dighty burn. There is an attractive woodland walk along the course of the burn, which is located in a small valley on the north side of the park. Patches of wetland occur beside both ponds and interesting wetland plant species can be found here.

Camperdown Park (NO362329)

Camperdown Park is the largest public park in Dundee and the woodland areas under active management amount to approximately 60ha within the 160ha park. Camperdown Park, along with Templeton Woods and Clatto Country Park, are classed as a City-wide Country Park under the Dundee Public Open Space Strategy. It is located on the North Western boundary of Dundee City within the Strathmartine ward. Camperdown Country Park is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Ardler, St Marys, Charleston and Lochee. The park has nine pedestrian entrances and two tarmac surfaced road entrances.

Clatto (NO367345)

Clatto Country Park is located on the north-western boundary of Dundee City and lies within the Strathmartine ward, covering nearly 14 hectares. It is a regional facility which serves this community plus many of those living in Angus particularly in Birkhill and Muirhead.

Clatto Country Park is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Ardler, St Marys, Charleston and Lochee. The boundaries of the original reservoir park are traced by walls and fences, but the actual paths extend through areas nearby, some of which are slowly being returned to forest habitat. These include Clatto moor to the north, former farmland to the east, and the new 'Admiral Duncan Wood' to the south.

The main entrance with car park is located at the south end of the park. Pedestrian access is available at the north-east and north-west corners of the park via, as well as a link to and from Templeton Woods. There is also a Clatto visitor centre sometimes used by Ancrum Outdoor Centre and occasionally by school groups, but closed to the general public. The centre has suffered much neglect over the past 10 years due to lack of stewardship and vision for the park and is heavily littered with muddy paths around the centre and graffiti on the building. Visitor numbers to Clatto Country Park have decreased significantly over the past decades.

Dighty Valley

The Dighty burn runs from the north-west of Dundee through the northern part of the city then south-east between Broughty Ferry and Monifieth where it enters the Tay Estuary at Balmossie. In total, the river is approximately 12.5 miles long and originates in the Sidlaw Hills. The Dighty burn once provided power for over 30 mills and bleach fields. Those industries have long since declined and the valley now consists of several woodland areas, parks and playing fields which provide a recreational resource to the people living in the surrounding neighbourhoods. There are also several industrial estates in close proximity, for which plantations provide effective screening. The 'Dighty Linear Park' is identified as a City Heritage Park in the Dundee Public Open Space Strategy. In total there are 39.5 hectares of woodland here.

- Panmurefield (NO459332)

The Dighty Burn from Panmurefield was at one time heavily developed by industries. Remains of the Balmossie mill can still be seen today - the site of the millpond is now occupied by new flats. The two main entrances to the park are at Inchcolm drive (at the east end) and at the junction of Wyvis road and North Balmossie street. There are two main trails: the blue trail provides an attractive loop providing an insight of the old mill and bleach works site. The Green Trail is the route of the green circular through the area and consists of well surfaced tarmac path along the banks of the Dighty burn. This area totals five hectares.

- Arbroath Road (NO477325)

The Arbroath road section is a linear area of semi-mature trees located between the A92 (north) and residential housing (south). The 2.05 hectares of woodland cover forms an effective visual screen and a barrier against noise and pollution from the busy road. There is a high proportion of Scots pine and there has been new planting of young trees linking some of the compartments. There are areas of amenity grass beside and surrounding some of the woodland compartments, helping to give the area an open and inviting feel. There is good access for pedestrians along the tarmac footpath which runs the entire length of this area beside the road, with a security fence alongside. There is potential to develop a multi-layered structure with appropriate management.

- **West Pitkerro** (NO455382)

The Dighty burn flows along the east of the West Pitkerro industrial estate and is bordered by mature broadleaved woodland for much of this area. The natural vegetation beside the water is being encroached by areas of thick Giant hogweed – which has been treated- as well as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam. At the west of the estate, is Baldovie Road, which is screened by semi-mature mixed structural woodland screening the estate. West Pitkerro is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Whitfield and Douglas. The eastern section of this area runs alongside the newly constructed housing estate Clearwater park, running up to the riding school at The Braes. The woodland here under active management totals 3.5 hectares.

- **Baldovie** (NO440328)

The majority of this area comprises plantations around a large industrial estate, some of which is privately owned. This area stretches from Forties Road/Beryl Street at its eastern edge, to Drumgeith Road at its western edge. There are young and semi-mature plantations that cover a total of 9.9 hectares within an area of 20 hectares. The majority of the woodland here is to the north of the Dighty burn, but there is a substantial area of new planting to the south of the burn, beside Tayside Police Station on Balunie Avenue. There are many opportunities to complete further planting. This area is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation, which include Whitfield and Douglas.

- **Drumgeith** (NO431327)

This site includes Drumgeith park and is bordered by Drumgeith Road to the east and Pitkerro road to the west, with areas of semi-mature structure planting of mixed broadleaved trees at this edge of the park. The tree cover provides effective cover and increased visual appeal in addition to wildlife benefits. There are notable signs of vandalism and considerable litter in some areas. The area includes Longhaugh Quarry which is slightly to the north of the burn.

Drumgeith is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Whitfield and Douglas. The Green circular path provides a link from residential areas along the river corridor.

- **Finlathen Park** (NO421330)

Along with Drumgeith Park, Finlathen was created where previously there had been derelict mills along the Dighty Burn. The park is located to the west of Drumgeith Park and to the east of Mill O' Mains and the Dighty runs through the centre of the park. Fountainbeau Drive runs to the south, Fintry Road to the west, Fintry Gardens and Findale Street to the north. It is located in two areas of multiple deprivation – Fintry and Linlathen and Mid-Craigie. There is semi-mature woodland throughout the park as well as scrubland and managed areas for football pitches. The park is part of the Dighty Wildlife Corridor and contains 5.16 hectares of woodland within its total area of 24 hectares.

- **Mill O'Mains** (NO413334)

The Mill O'Mains woodland consists mostly of recreational woods in parkland – within the parkland there are three small linear woodland areas, providing screening of the adjoining Claverhouse industrial estate. These amount to 6.5 hectares and provide the main local greenspace for the housing estates there.

Mill O'Mains is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Claverhouse and Fintry.

- **Trottick** (NO404339)

This is the site of an old mill but is now a popular Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Green Flag site, with varying habitat including ponds, woodland, meadows, reedbed, river and grassland. Dighty burn runs through the reserve and along with a linear strip of mature broadleaved woodland to the north east which was formerly part of designed landscape of Balmore Estate. Evidence of the industry that was once sited on the Dighty can be seen in the old millponds, lades, weirs and sluice gates around the Trottick area. There is a new area of woodland planting located at the east of the site which is protected with a new deer and rabbit proof fence.

Trottick is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Claverhouse and Downfield. It is identified in its own right as a City Heritage Park.

Dudhope Corner (NO389307)

This site is located on the corner of Lochee Road and Dudhope Terrace and is bordered to the north-east by Dudhope Gardens, close to Dudhope House. The area was previously accessible via a set of steps on Lochee Road, but these are now shut and locked. There is a short desire line from Dudhope Gardens but this does not extend the full length of the site due to the density of the vegetation.

The Law (NO391313)

The Law is a prominent feature on the Dundee skyline and lies within the Coldside area of the City. The total area of the site is 11.58ha with approximately 8.25ha of woodland - additional areas of open ground contribute in providing wildlife habitat and recreational use. The site is classed as a city heritage park by the Dundee Open Space Strategy 2008-2011 and presents significant opportunity for projects to enhance its status as one of Dundee's most important open space areas. There is a surfaced road providing access to the summit. The fine views across Dundee and over to Fife, Angus and Perthshire in addition to the war memorial, makes the Law a significant local landmark and popular attraction for visitors. There are three allotment areas, which make up almost 40% of the land area. Internal paths within the woodland area are widely used by walkers, dog walkers and cyclists.

The Coldside area is home to approximately 19,500 residents however the woodland will also bring benefits to all areas of Dundee. It is located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes the Hilltown and Byron Street area.

This woodland management plan forms part of the wider Masterplan for improving the Law, as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund bid in June 2014. This Masterplan has been constructed by Dundee City Council and identifies a range of potential environmental improvements on the Law. In addition to addressing woodland management and new planting, the plan considers the path network and interpretation, public art, condition of the war memorial, road repairs, lighting, toilet facilities and allotments.

Menziesshill (NO359310)

Menziesshill is a residential area of Dundee located on the western side of Dundee within the Lochee ward. It is bordered by Ninewells Hospital to the south and east and the A90 to the west. There are eight small woodland areas, each one no larger than one hectare, dispersed around the neighbourhood with pedestrian entrances providing access. The small plantations and woodland belts provide many benefits to the local and wider community. This includes visual screening and amenity, wildlife habitat, recreation, shade and shelter, as well as absorption of pollutants and carbon sequestration. There may be the opportunity to enlarge some of these plantation areas.

Menziesshill is a Community Regeneration Area which is one of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation.

Middleton Woods (NO431341)

Middleton Community Woodland was the first community woodland in Dundee and was opened in 1993. It is situated at the north of the city and can be accessed from Duntrune Road at the north and by foot from Carberry Crescent. There is residential development to the south at Whitfield, and arable fields to the north and east. The woodland totals 10.4 hectares and provides multiple benefits for the people of the Whitfield area, including provision of a haven for wildlife and a network of trails for walkers. Six of the nine data zones in Whitfield fall into the most deprived 15% of areas as defined by Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. The Environment Department has created a Whitfield tree strategy as part of the Regeneration Design Framework for the area. The woodland is identified as a neighbourhood park in the Public Open Space Strategy.

The Middleton Community Woodland Group was established to take forward the work of management and maintenance but has not met regularly since 2010. Activities have included tree planting events, fun days and clean-ups. The group included teachers, local residents of Whitfield and Fintry and members of the Council's environment department and had membership of the Community Woodland Association. The site is a Site of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) and Community Wildlife Site (CWS) on the Dundee Local Plan. There is a WIAT-funded Rangers Cabin in the woodland which is fully equipped with environmental education resources and is available for schools and community groups to use free of charge. The cabin is situated in the car park area on Duntrune Road.

In 2006, the woodland was considerably extended beyond its original dimensions with new planting areas created in the north-west of the site. This was funded by the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) in 2006. A feature of this new planting is the large number of shrubby woodland edge plants such as guelder rose, hawthorn and blackthorn.

The Miley (NO384318)

This mile-long railway remnant lies on the boundary between the Coldside and Lochee wards to the north of the centre of the city. It is 2.08 hectares in size and runs north to south from Clepington Road, crossing Harefield Road, to Loons Road. The railway was in use until 1967, and in 1992 Dundee City Council began leasing the site to the Scottish Wildlife Trust. The banks of the old railway are now wooded and flank a well-maintained path along the bottom where the tracks would have been, which local volunteers now manage. It is located immediately next to the Fairmuir area which is one of the 15% most deprived zones in the city.

Reres Park (NO473312)

Reres Park is located on 2.6 hectares of land on a small hill in Broughty Ferry and was opened to the public in 1887 by James Guthrie Orchar who was the Provost of Broughty Ferry. There is an archway and fountain at the main entrance to Reres Park on Monifieth Road, commemorating its opening and the Queen Victoria Jubilee. There are also pedestrian entrances on the north side of the park on Reres Road. The park lies within the Reres Hill conservation area, contains around 400 mature trees and is identified as a City Heritage Park.

The Broughty Ferry Environmental Project (BFEP) has been heavily involved in the management of Reres Park. For the past few years BFEP and the Nature Nutters group (12 children and 6 adult helpers) have been undertaking management tasks in the park, under the guidance of the Dundee City Council Forestry Officer. This has involved removing large numbers of sycamore seedlings and both planting and nurturing of native tree species. During these sessions, local artists and poets have worked with local children to create artworks for the site, including three carved seats, in the shape of 'blown leaves'. Funding from Awards for All was secured by the BFEP to design and produce this seating which was installed in 2003. Given the existing community activity in the park, BFEP felt there was a great opportunity to develop a new type of community strategy which facilitated the on-going involvement of local people in the management and use of Reres Hill. BFEP prepared the community strategy in the form of a DVD which was supported by Scottish Natural Heritage.

Riverside Avenue North (NO362299)

This area runs from the convergence of Riverside Drive and Riverside Avenue, west to where the railway line crosses Riverside Avenue, close to the Perth Road turning. It is bounded to the north and south by the railway line and Riverside Avenue respectively. Its 7 hectares are comprised of 3.54 hectares of mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland.

There are both formal and informal paths through this area, with access points from the bridge at the eastern end on Riverside Drive, as well as in the centre from the north via a track on Perth Road. It is located in the West End ward, close to Riverside Nature Park.

Riverside Drive (NO379296)

This section of woodland on Riverside Drive is located in the West End ward of Dundee, on the River Tay waterfront. It is one of the main routes to and from the city centre. The woodland areas are located beside the main road and over the railway on the south facing slopes below Harris Academy secondary school (currently shut for demolition and reconstruction) and total 1.52ha. The roadside woodland forms part of a wildlife corridor as defined in the Dundee Local Development Plan 2014. This plan contains the spatial strategy that will guide development in the city up to 2024. The linear areas of planting include areas of mixed semi-mature broadleaves and conifers with shrub planting along the margins which date back to the 1980s with a more formal section of early mature cherry and Swedish whitebeam in the central area. These trees provide screening and visual amenity adjacent to

the busy road, as well as contributing to biodiversity and interception of pollutants, thereby improving air quality.

Above the railway, the steeply sloping south facing banking is cloaked with large mature sycamore and beech. The woodland is of significant value for nature conservation and provides screening and a noise barrier for the school and residential housing above. Management issues include tree safety with large mature trees located in close proximity to areas of high usage.

Riverside Nature Park (NO357297)

Situated on the Tay estuary, in the west end ward of Dundee, Riverside Nature Park opened in 2011, on top of an old landfill site. The area has been landscaped and planted up and is now one of the best wildlife sites in Dundee, with 135 bird species seen. Within its 33 hectares there are 3.6 hectares of woodland, all of which has been planted within the last 15 years. It is located to the south of Riverside Drive, adjacent to Dundee airport, with access from Riverside Drive via Wright Avenue, towards the recycling centre. The paths within the park are good, with wide, tarmac surfaces throughout. Highland cattle graze in the roadside compartment, which also contains a small pool, which attracts wetland birds.

South Road Park (NO353316)

South Road Park is a large area of amenity parkland located on the north-west side of Dundee within the Lochee ward. It is bordered by South Road to the north and Menzieshill estate to the south. There are several pedestrian entrances located around the park, providing access from various points along South Road and also from the surrounding neighbourhoods. The park contains recreational facilities including playing fields, Lynch Sports Centre and allotment gardens which have recently been regenerated.

South Road Park is classified as a City Park by the Dundee's Open Space Strategy. The woodlands are open in character providing attractive scenery and a safe environment for recreation. The area of woodland under active management is around 2.75 hectares, which screen houses and blocks of flats with areas of island planting beside paths within the park. Gowrie Primary School is located within the park's boundary and there are several schools surrounding the park, to which the park's footpath network provides access.

South Road Park is located within the Menzieshill/Charleston Community Regeneration Area, which is one of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation.

Templeton Woods (NO360339)

Templeton Woods is located on the north-western boundary of Dundee City and lies within the Strathmartine ward. The woodland area covers 60 hectares and provides a regional facility which serves Dundee's community. Approximately 12600 people live within 1km of Templeton Woods (Census 2001). The woods are located within 500 metres of several of the 15% most deprived data zones in the Scottish Government's index of Multiple Deprivation. This includes Ardler, St Marys, Charleston and Lochee.

Templeton's 60ha occupy some of the highest ground in the local authority area and were originally part of the Camperdown estate of the Duncan Family. They were planted by David Taylor, the head forester of the 1st Earl of Camperdown in the 19th Century. In 1946 Dundee Corporation bought the woodland with other parts of the estate. While many of the estate trees remain, there have been many different attempts to manage the woodland under council ownership. This has resulted in a mosaic of plantation conifer, open mature deciduous woodland and naturally regenerated birch for example. There have been periods of neglect, notably from 1946 to 1965 and from 2000 to 2005 through lack of resources. The woods have benefited from investment from externally funded programmes such as the Manpower Services Commission in the 70's and 80's which added to the annual maintenance of the period as part of a city wide employment scheme.

There is a Visitor Centre, which opened in 1980. This popular meeting place also offers barbeque, fire and picnic facilities in addition to acting as a base for the diverse range of formal groups who use Templeton for outdoor learning and volunteering. Active management started again under the Woodlands in and Around Towns Challenge (WIAT) funded programme and Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) 2005-08 and included thinning works, new signs and waymarks, path upgrading, pond restoration and art work installation. Funding has also been sourced from SNH, B&Q, Dundee Access Group and Breathing Places. Volunteers are also becoming more active in the management of the woods.

Strategic Forest Plan - Dundee Woodlands - Location Map - Part A.



Stakeholder engagement

It was agreed with the Case Officer for the Dundee Woodland Management Project that meetings would be held in order to inform key stakeholders of the proposed tree work to be undertaken as part of the woodland management plans. The format of the meetings was as follows:

1. Explanation of key proposals and objectives of the management plans
2. Describe the detail contained on the concept map highlighting the main factors that may impact the management of the woodland
3. Identify and address any potential issues
4. Ask stakeholders to present their comments
5. Discuss, clarify and explore solutions to any issues raised
6. Summarise main points

Due to the number of sites included in the overall Dundee Woodland Management project, it was agreed that the scoping should first be undertaken firstly on a city-wide scale. A Dundee TWIG meeting was arranged and a presentation was delivered to introduce the project to internal and external stakeholders. Dundee Trees and Woods in Greenspace (TWIG) is a project which aims to enhance the contribution made by trees, woods and greenspace in and around Dundee to the quality of life and the well-being of the City's population. The presentation covered all sites and general issues which may impact the management of the woodlands. Attendees included several members of the Council's Environment Department, the Case Officer from the Forestry Commission, a representative from Dundee City Council's Community Officers and a member of the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project and Local Access Forum.

From this meeting, other forms of raising awareness were suggested. This included involving local community groups and providing information leaflets at the Dundee Flower and Food Festival which took place 31st August-2nd September 2012. It was also suggested that information be displayed on the Dundee TWIG website.

In order to address the issues specific to each site, a meeting was arranged with the Dundee City Council Community Officer for the appropriate ward. The purpose of this was to provide detailed information on the woodland management plans relevant to the community officer's individual ward. Issues specific to each of the sites were identified and included in the plan. Additionally, any local community group and community councils have also been informed about and encouraged to comment on the woodland management proposal.

Full details of the stakeholder engagement process are provided in the Scoping Report (*Appendix II*)

Long term vision and management objectives

The purpose of this project is to build upon the previous work undertaken in 18 of Dundee's city woodlands. This was funded by Forestry Commission Scotland through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS). The objective is to identify a wide range of individually-tailored improvement works for each wood within the context of a long term city-wide strategy. Each woodland management plan will then be delivered with practical project works to further improve public access and enjoyment of the woods. Works will include further access and interpretation development, more improved recreational and educational opportunities, arboreal enhancement and habitat enrichment through continuous woodland programmes.

The Management Objectives for this project include the following:

- Increased appropriate usage of the woods both by 'formal' means e.g. Ranger and Education Services and by 'informal' users such as walkers and cyclists.
- Improved progress towards the position of continuous cover woodland for Dundee's woods.
- Increased public awareness of the flora and fauna of the woods.
- An increase in the amenity and habitat value of Dundee's woodlands.
- Reduction of exotic and invasive species in favour of native species *where applicable*, promoting natural regeneration towards the goal of continuous cover forest.
- Enhance the natural heritage value of appropriate sites.
- Monitoring and control of vermin access to sensitive areas.

This vision correlates with the Vision for Dundee's Trees and Urban Woodlands, as described in the Dundee Tree and Urban Forestry Policy (2009). This policy states that in conjunction with the public, private and voluntary sector, the vision of the Council is to promote:

"a varied and diverse tree and woodland resource, which is well looked after and sustainably managed to the highest standards. This will deliver multiple benefits to the residents of Dundee who will be able to have input, ownership and involvement as to how these assets will be managed." (Dundee Tree and Urban Forestry Policy, 2009).

Woodland Description

Dundee contains a varied mix of both native and non-native conifers and broadleaves, which form both large and small woodlands and areas of amenity and shelter-belt planting across all areas. The woodlands vary in terms of their species composition and age; below is a short description of each area. In *Appendix III* there are tables and graphs depicting the composition and age structure of the woodlands.

Balgay Cemetery

There is a mixture of broadleaved and coniferous trees in the cemetery, with most (approximately 70%) being broadleaves, including a large number of mature beech trees, particularly on the high points. These beech trees are not only ageing (with some over 200 years old) but also vulnerable to windblow and disease, resulting in some deterioration. Other species present in reasonable numbers include sycamore, rowan, whitebeam (including some very old specimens), with conifers including red cedar, coastal redwood, yew and larch. There is a large amount of canopy cover over most areas of the cemetery, with higher density in the area to the north / north-west and south-east of the site – where there are few/no graves and some natural regeneration.

Balgay Hill

The mature wooded areas are of largely even aged structure and consist of a mature canopy of mixed coniferous and broadleaved species planted in the 18th century. The woodland floor has been manicured with regular grass cutting and leaf raking, which was stopped 20 years ago with natural regeneration now a major part of the woodland, especially on the north side.

There is a mix of beech and large exotic conifers on the northern upper slopes, including Corsican pine, Douglas fir and Lawson cypress. The southern slopes receive higher levels of light reaching the ground and include a wider mix of species including Wellingtonia, Coastal redwoods and cedars. There is a large amount of sycamore regeneration that needs to be thinned – an alternative shrub layer could be introduced to improve structural diversity.

Baxter Park

The park is known for its historical trees and already has a tree-specific management plan in place. There are 46 different species in the park, with 33% composed of sycamore and common lime (*Tilia x europaea* – a hybrid of small- and large-leaved lime). These form large, grand avenues around the park and are in reasonable condition. There are several 'island beds' of trees which help to create a more prominent woodland setting. There are several Camperdown elms around the park, as well as some more exotic specimen trees such as Persian walnut, Himalayan cedar, Causcasian walnut, Silver lime, Tulip tree, Tibetan cherry and Kashmir rowan.

Belmont Estate

The trees within the parkland area are all early-mature to mature and of similar height and structure. There is a good mixture of broadleaves and conifers throughout. The campground is dominated by mature sycamore trees, with some spruce, lime, yew and beech specimens. Elsewhere, there is less dominance by one species, with an even mixture of Lawson cypress, Norway maple, hornbeam, whitebeam, cherry, douglas fir, ash, lime, beech, birch and oak. Quite a few of the trees are in need of maintenance, mostly due to their age. There has also been some storm damage here, causing trees to lose limbs and leaving a number of crowns significantly damaged.

Within the denser plantations, there is a mixture of large even-aged stands of scots pine, larch and Sitka spruce. The plantations are in need of thinning to diversify the age structure, to ensure that the majority of trees continue to grow well.

There are several trees on the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree database including a sweet chestnut, two sessile and three pedunculate oak trees. Old Maggie – a large copper beech tree – is situated in the parkland here. The tree was given its name by Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman – former liberal Prime Minister – who previously owned Belmont Estate.

Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve

The woodland areas here consist mostly of native broadleaved trees and scrub, which cover the banks of the old railway line. There is also a significant amount of low gorse and broom scrub, which will need appropriate management. The woodland contains many mature trees of around 40 years old, as well as some younger planted woodland of 20 – 25 years old, and naturally regenerated woodland belonging to many age groups. Low impact management is carried out by the Countryside Ranger Service, and larger tree works will become more important as the mature trees continue to age. There is a large amount of non-native sycamore here, as well as ash, oak and hawthorn, creating a wildlife-rich habitat.

Caird Park

The woodland areas comprise both broadleaved and conifer planting, most of which dates to the late seventies and eighties. Many areas are at an important stage where intervention is required for future stability and to favour individual trees of long term potential and favoured species. Most of the areas are linear in shape, as is customary on a golf course; thin strips of planting at the north and south of the park are very important in providing screening from busy roads. The woodland includes planted blocks of sessile oak, elm, birch, rowan, pine and ash. Grey alder and willow also occur in some of the damper areas and on the islands within the pond.

Camperdown Park

In total there are 100 individual tree species found in Camperdown Country Park. These include many fine specimens of oak, elm, weeping ash, sycamore and beech, as well as some more exotic species. The northern and western perimeters of the park incorporate larger areas of mature woodland including beech and mixed broadleaves.

The Arboretum between the Camperdown wildlife centre and Camperdown Mansion House contains a mixture of exotic and more familiar trees and is part of the National Tree Collection of Scotland. Her ladyship's walk is a pinetum which includes exotic conifers such as Wellingtonia, Monkey puzzle, Monterey pine, Bhutan pine, Cedar of Lebanon and Douglas fir, planted as part of the *iCONic* project.

Clatto Country Park

The woodland in Clatto Country Park was established in the 1900s with further planting completed in 1960. Tree planting within Clatto Country Park has occurred in woodland blocks, so there are roughly even-aged stands. There are some remnants of the old Baldragon woodland, which was felled for agriculture many years ago, thus losing the largest alder woodland in Dundee. The remnants are now protected by a TPO and the rest of the area was replanted in 2012 by local schoolchildren.

The plantation woods include Scots pine, larch, spruce, beech and oak. These were originally established to provide a windbreak, following the construction of the Clatto Reservoir. Admiral Duncan Wood was planted by local school children in 2005 to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. There are also areas of semi-mature structural woodland near the car park and play area which contain a high proportion of shrub species for wildlife habitat.

Dighty Valley

The majority of the trees along the valley were planted over 100 years ago, most of which are broadleaf species with a small proportion of conifers.

- Panmurefield village

All trees were planted in 1900 providing mature even-aged woodland. The woods at Balmossie include areas of mature ash on the steep slopes above the northern side of the burn, although beech and sycamore have become dominant over the years. These woods include understory trees and shrubs such as holly, hawthorn and young beech.

On the opposite side of the Dighty, small plantation areas comprise broadleaved species such as alder, willow and cherry. A well-developed understory comprises woodland edge species such as guelder rose, dog rose, elder, hawthorn and blackthorn. The plantations further up the slope on the west bank include alder, birch, wild cherry and ground cover shrubs.

- **West Pitkerro**

Species are mainly broadleaves with mixed conifers found in some compartments. Dominant species include beech, sycamore, elm and ash. There is also young sycamore, elm and ash regeneration in several compartments. A well-stocked mature lime avenue runs north to south each side of the boundary road in compartment six. There is the possibility of new planting here, to underplant current stands and also fill in gaps produced by significant windblow and over-maturation of large trees.

- **Baldovie**

Semi- mature plantations make up the bulk of the woodland areas here, with a mix of conifers and broadleaves. The newly planted areas are varying in their success and some areas need management to encourage growth. They have been planted with native species such as alder, ash, oak, rowan and hawthorn. There is a lot of willow and sycamore regeneration in places as well as some areas that need a small amount of thinning due to tall but thin trees of species such as pine and larch. There are several pine plantations close to Drumgeith Road that act as a shelterbelt, but would benefit from some underplanting to increase stability and shelter.

- **Arbroath Road**

Approximately 70% of the woodland was planted in 1900 with later planting in 1972. Scots pine and larch are the dominant species in three of the compartments with birch and Norway maple as the main species in the other sections of the woodland. There is some well-structured understory vegetation in some parts.

- **Finlathen Park**

Finlathen Park consists of several large island areas within the main park area, as well as some shelterbelt edges, close to the housing in the Fintry area. These shelterbelts are mostly made up of pine, larch and sycamore, which will need some thinning management especially close to houses. The island areas are composed of standards of both native and non-native species, such as Norway maple, ash, oak and whitebeam, as well as more pine, larch and sycamore. These, like Baldovie and Drumgeith, would benefit from underplanting to create a more naturalistic woodland environment, as well as stabilising the areas.

- **Drumgeith**

The woodland mostly consists of mixed broadleaves with some compartments containing conifers including Scots pine and Japanese larch. Broadleaf species include alder, Norway maple, whitebeam, willow, aspen, cherry and sycamore. All trees in this woodland were planted in 1960. The Longhaugh Quarry area includes both planted and naturally regenerated woodland.

- **Mill O'Mains**

Mostly broadleaved species including sycamore, field maple, ash, silver birch, beech, Wych elm, Norway maple, horse chestnut and oak. There are minor scatterings of conifers including Scots pine, Norway spruce, larch, Lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, Norway cedar and Atlas cedar.

- **Trottick**

Mostly beech, sycamore, ash and Wych elm, with the occasional larch, Norway spruce and Corsican pine. In 2007, a new plantation of broadleaves (1.7 ha) was established. This area has been protected by a deer fence however the ground flora, including wood anemone has suffered beneath a dense covering of herbaceous weeds and giant hogweed.

Dudhope Corner

The woodland here is a mixture of plantation (mostly to the north-west along Lochee Road and Rankine Street) scots pine and larch and a lot of natural regeneration in the main area of woodland to the north of where Dudhope Terrace meets Lochee Road. There are some mature beech, oak and lime trees at the highest point, with some natural regeneration of those species underneath and some

good quality woodland flora. There is also a lot of cherry, with a great deal of natural regeneration. Other species include hawthorn, ash and elm.

Law Hill

The woodlands cloak the sides of the Law leaving the top clear, for viewing, with extensive views in all directions. The planting includes areas of various pines and spruces dating back to the 1970s and early 1980s, with older plantings of mixed broadleaved species, including birch, rowan, sycamore, maple and cherry.

Menziesshill

The tree cover and woodland in Menziesshill comprises areas of mixed semi-mature landscape screen planting beside areas of housing and schools. These trees were planted in the 1970s and include scots pine, larch and cherry. There are also areas of planting adjacent to parks, with a high proportion of shrubs such as cotoneaster and hawthorn and with notable birch.

Middleton Woods

The first trees were planted at Middleton in October 1993, with the assistance of Forestry Commission Scotland. Many trees have been planted by hundreds of local people at events each year. Paths, picnic benches and a SUDS pond have also been created. In 2006 over a thousand trees were planted by local school children, to create a large new area of woodland. Scots pine dominates most areas, with mixed broadleaved trees including oak, alder, willow, hazel, hawthorn and ash.

The Miley

Made up of broadleaved, deciduous trees, the main mature trees date back to the 1960's after the line was closed. There is a large amount of mature sycamore, ash, willow and birch, with apple trees, hawthorn and elder forming lower scrub areas. Recent planting by schools and volunteers has taken place in 1995, with alder, oak, cherry, rowan, birch, holly and maple comprising the bulk of the saplings.

Management is undertaken by local SWT volunteers who have concentrated on thinning the sycamore out to increase biodiversity and create space for natives. They also maintain an active litter picking schedule. WIAT money has in the past funded the woodland management here, as well as new signs, path improvements and access ramp.

Reres

Reres contains an area of mature deciduous and coniferous woodland surrounding a small hill. The south side of the hill is mainly short grass and low bramble, with scots pine, oak, sycamore and beech on higher slopes. The woods are also of interest for the unusual variety of fungi which appear in autumn. Understory shrubs and herbs have developed, with some areas showing more natural vegetation structure as would be found in older native woodlands. Sycamore sapling regeneration has been the target of voluntary work parties in the past few years, as it threatens to out-compete other native tree regeneration.

Riverside Avenue North

The western end of the strip contains larch, Norway and field maple, pine, ash, rowan and hawthorn, mostly around 20 years old. Towards the eastern half of the site there is more cherry, horse chestnut and aspen, as well as larch, pine and ash. There are some patches of shrub understory as well containing broom, rowan and rose. The plantations are densely packed in some places and could benefit from some thinning. There are also several areas that would benefit from new planting.

Riverside Drive East

The woodland mainly consists of broadleaved species including whitebeam, white poplar, cherry, beech and sycamore. There are also several conifers across the two main compartments with three prominent specimen conifers located on the railway. This includes two Lebanon cedars and one monkey puzzle tree. The understory consists of bramble, sycamore regeneration, guelder rose, holly, and hawthorn, elder and grey alder. Small open areas contain some ground flora, including wild garlic and brambles, as well as a thick layer of ivy.

Riverside Nature Park

The woodland areas here, consist of several large islands of trees, that have been planted over the last 20 years, after the landscaping was finalised. The planting consists of native broadleaves such as

alder, oak and hawthorn, with some scots pine present as well. The larger woodland areas such as Buzzard, Coe and Corner Wood, to the east of the park, are now well-established and contain a good structure of both mature and semi-mature trees. There are also a couple of wetter areas, with an abundance of willow and alder that will need some management in the next five years or so in order to maintain their biodiversity value.

South Road Park

The woods managed comprise areas of semi-mature broadleaves and conifers. The main species commonly found include sycamore, oak, birch, rowan, Norway maple and cherry. There is also the occasional beech, whitebeam and lime. All trees were planted in 1970 so there is a lack of structural diversity.

Templeton Woods

There is great diversity of species with attractive large mature specimens including Scots pine and exotics such as Douglas fir, Silver fir and Norway spruce. There are impressive stands of mature beech and oak of good quality, notably along Coupar Angus Road which runs to the south of the woodland. Templeton Wood is actively managed to encourage diversity of species and structure, particularly with the development of beech and oak regeneration.

Recent storms have caused damage to some of the mid-aged conifer areas of the woodland. This however provides opportunities for changing species for the long term which will complement the long term vision of providing a stable, varied and diverse tree resource for future generations.

Part B – Survey data

A range of surveys have been undertaken at all of the woodlands in Dundee over the last decade, both by Dundee City Council and external consultants, in order to assess the features of the woodlands, particularly access, woodland health and wildlife habitat.

In 2012 Langton Tree Specialists carried out full surveys of all sites, providing information on the species composition of the sites, tree health and management recommendations. These prescriptions were used to help structure the individual management plans and this strategic forest plan.

In 2000, the Dundee Habitats and Species survey was carried out and identified important sites for wildlife and made recommendations to improve areas. Dundee Red Squirrel Project survey transects have been carried out regularly in Camperdown Country Park, Clatto, Balgay and Templeton Woods since 2002 recording changes in the population of red and grey squirrels helping direct red squirrel conservation. There are currently ten trees in Camperdown Park identified as Veteran Trees on the Woodland Trust database. This includes four sessile oaks, two sycamores, two large leaved limes, one common lime and one Wych elm.

The scoping reports completed for each site have identified several issues regarding management of woodlands. Stakeholders have noted their concern regarding the presence of exotic species, horticultural maintenance, public access and the maintenance of specimen trees. Specific information regarding each site is detailed below.

Tree Health Surveys

As per the guidance issued by Forestry Commission Scotland, the Council will continue to monitor the health of its tree stock. In particular, species which are potentially at threat from new diseases i.e. Chalara dieback of ash, Ramorum on larch and Dothistroma needle blight, will be closely observed. The results of monitoring surveys will be incorporated into management planning. At present, there have been no confirmed records of any of those three diseases in Dundee. The following tables show the estimated numbers of trees in the city which could be at threat.

Table 1: Age classes of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and larch (*Larix decidua*) present in Dundee.

Age	Estimated ash tree no.	Estimated pine no.	Estimated larch no.
Young (0-10 years)	2000	5000	2000

Immature (10-30 years)	3000	5000	5000
Mature (30+ years)	2000	16000	24000

Table 2: Ownership breakdown of the ash, pine and larch trees in Dundee. DCC = Dundee City Council.

Owner	Estimated ash tree no.	Estimated pine no.	Estimated larch no.
DCC	3000	16000	27000
Private	4000	10000	4000

Site specifics

Balgay Cemetery

In 2014 an internal Green Flag assessment was carried out as part of the Greater Balgay Action Plan. In 2013 a more specific Balgay Cemetery only audit was carried out, identifying flooding problems and pothole problems at the Ancrum entrance, as well as improvements needed to the hedging and the reduction of weedkiller usage.

Scoping surveys have identified poor paths around the park and poor steps at one of the highest points to the west of the park. Areas have been identified that could be planted up and there is also seen to be an opportunity to include some more woodland and tree interpretation on site.

Balgay Hill

In October 2012, a Green Flag internal audit was carried out and action plan developed. Action points in this plan include reviewing the path system, cutting back overgrown plants, removing invasive plant species such as Himalayan Balsam and attending to storm damaged trees. Meadow creation has also been suggested for the top of the hill which is currently dominated by dock.

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey regarded Balgay Hill as "one of the most diverse sites in Dundee" and as "a valuable wildlife asset". Management suggestions included small scale under-planting of native species such as holly and hazel in the oak woods to improve the shrub understorey in parts of the woodland. Balgay Hill is well known for its variety of wildlife and is classed as a Nature Conservation Site and Community Wildlife Site by the Dundee Local Plan (2005). The area on Pentland Avenue is also classed as an SINC in its own right.

The Dundee Red Squirrel project has actively promoted red squirrel conservation for a number of years. In addition to volunteer surveys, regular grey control has had a positive effect in encouraging red squirrels back to Balgay. Red squirrels were first spotted in the park three years ago after an absence of fifteen years.

Concerns have been raised by stakeholders regarding the maintenance in particular of the Irish yew trees found in the park. No trees are identified as being heritage, veteran or ancient on the Woodland Trust database. One Whitebeam was present but was felled by strong winds.

Baxter Park

In 2009 the park achieved Green Flag status. The 2014 Green Flag award report found the site to be easily accessible and welcoming, safe and clean, with other positive points identified in the sustainable planting, community involvement and park management. Recommendations referred to the provision of marketing space on park signs and smaller details relating to tree and shrub management.

Belmont Estate

In 2014 a survey of the mature standards present in the parkland and more open areas was conducted. This obtained data on the age, height and condition of the trees. This identified the presence of beech bark disease on several of the mature beeches, as well as the crown damage of many mature oaks and Lawson cypress trees due to age and previous stormy weather. The site was funded in 2005 through the FCS WIAT scheme, which provided some money for interpretation signs describing the path routes and wildlife that you can see.

Caird Park

In July 2012, a user survey was carried out, specifically addressing the usage of one of the core paths. It was found that on average 14 people per hour walk across Caird Park golf course on this particular core path, usually in small groups travelling to and from Angus and Dundee College or St. Paul's school. The action proposed was to improve safety signage and repeat the survey to measure any trend changes.

In August 2012, a quality survey based on the Green Flag Award assessment criteria was undertaken by Dundee City Council's Environment Department. The survey recommended that roads, paths and seating should be refurbished in some areas and that traffic calming measures should be put in place. Another issue identified was the lack of information available to the local community regarding events, the maintenance of the park and of the various cycle and access routes within the park.

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey report states that although from a conservation point of view, the removal of some non-native trees and shrubs would be desirable, these do add to the amenity value of the site. It also recommends that thinning is required in some of the younger plantations in the eastern section. Consideration is also given to increasing the habitat diversity by cutting some of the amenity grassland less frequently. No major issues were recorded by the Scoping report.

Camperdown Park

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey identified Camperdown as a site of importance for nature conservation (SINC) and stated that woodland management is required to favour native species and maintain natural biodiversity. The survey recommended that oak and beech require management to control the spread of alien species and excessive sycamore regeneration. It was also suggested that large stands of pine and spruce could be broken up to encourage native woodland regeneration and help to link up wildlife corridors. In order to favour red squirrels promotion of pine, larch and hazel was recommended. It was also noted in the survey that the northern section of Camperdown would be ideal for managing more favourably for wildlife as this area is used for more informal recreation such as walking.

The Scoping Report has identified the poor condition of the two drives into the park (one of which is going to be repaired during August 2014) and also the subway south east entrance of the park which is reported to be featureless, littered and uninviting.

Clatto

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey regards the woodlands and grasslands in Clatto Country Park as "a valuable asset" and recommends that some woodland management is required to encourage the wetland community, including species such as greater spearwort and greater knapweed. The report states that management is required to maintain the conservation value of the species rich grasslands.

A social issue was raised during the Scoping report, regarding communication with the neighbouring communities. When operations are carried out, those neighbourhoods will be informed of the scheduled work program. If other any issues are subsequently raised, this will be considered when implementing the woodland management plan.

Dightly Valley

Trottick was included in the Dundee Habitats and Species Survey. The survey report notes the populations of water birds and the invasion of giant hogweed. Better drainage and improved path surface is also recommended where wetness prevents access to certain compartments.

The scoping procedure identified several communication issues with regards to the woodland work on the Dightly Valley. This includes raising awareness with local community groups (Broughty Ferry Community Council, Broughty Ferry Environmental Project and Dightly Connect). Dundee City Council's Greenspace officer attended the Broughty Ferry Community Council meeting on the 3rd July 2012. Information and concept maps were provided to all members. A meeting was also held with Ann Lolley who leads the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project and Dightly Connect. Additionally, communication began with the local resident groups (Kirkton and Castlewood Brae). When operations are carried out, those neighbourhoods will be informed of the scheduled work program. If other any issues are subsequently raised, this will be considered when implementing the woodland management plan.

Dippers, herons and kingfishers all use the burn and the water quality has improved in recent years, although the Baldovie industrial estate has unfortunately caused some significant pollution to the burn in the past year. In some of the open meadow areas, good numbers of wildflower species can be found including tufted vetch and meadow cranesbill. Drumgeith includes the area of Longhaugh Quarry, which is an SINC and CWS having been surveyed in 2000.

At Trottick, educational activities are regularly carried out by the Council's Ranger Service here including school groups, wildlife clubs and adult employment training in practical conservation and wildlife skills.

There are currently no trees in the Dighty Valley sites identified as Heritage, Veteran or Ancient Trees on the Woodland Trust database.

Dudhope Corner

As this area has had no public access, there have been no scoping surveys done here. Some quite significant management would need to be undertaken to make it accessible to the public, including clearance and path creation. This is a possibility if a suitable path line was identified.

There are no trees here that are currently identified as Heritage, Veteran or Ancient according to the Woodland Trust database.

Law Hill

In August 2012, Dundee City Council's Outdoor Access Officer surveyed all paths and entrance routes on the Law recording information on path dimensions, surface, drainage, safety and overall condition. Way markers and interpretation boards were also assessed.

In October 2012, a Green Flag internal audit was carried out and action plan developed. Action points in this plan include refurbishing interpretation, attending to storm damaged trees and establishing a Friends of Dundee Law group.

The Law Masterplan, which is currently being developed, has identified the requirement for a conditional survey of the War memorial. This would be undertaken by Dundee City Council's City Development Department.

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey undertaken in covered the whole of the Law and regarded the broad-leaved woodland as a locally important habitat and a valuable resource in the Dundee area. The grasslands are described as having the potential to be "one of the best conservation sites in Dundee." The Scoping Report has identified a lack of biodiversity records for the site making it difficult to promote wildlife habitats to visitors. Consequently the Law has been suggested as a site for a Bioblitz event whereby a group of volunteers led by the Council's Countryside Rangers, survey and record present plant and animal species.

Menzieshill

Woodland compartment eight, partly bordering Dickson Avenue, is included in the Dundee Habitats and Species Survey 2000. The report notes the lack of variety in native grasses and herbs and claims there is little wildlife interest in this site with no significant habitats or species. The report suggests the margins of the site could be managed to encourage native grasses and herbs by mowing twice per year.

Middleton Woods

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey identified that some areas of the marshy grasslands would benefit from low level grazing, particularly near the wet margins of the stream, which ran through the site. It was recommended that the burn would also benefit from some sensitive clearing of vegetation including the construction of several ponds adjacent to the burn in low lying depressions. Dry grasslands on the hill would also benefit from grazing by cattle or sheep. The report concluded that the area would benefit from a management plan and would be an ideal local nature reserve.

The Scoping Report identified the need for community engagement when planning and implementing work in the woodland.

Regular monitoring of the health of the plantation trees is carried out by the Dundee City Council Forestry Officer. Frequent monitoring of the general condition of the area was carried out by the members of the Management Group along with the Countryside Ranger service, but as the group does not meet anymore, this is only carried out by the Countryside Ranger service.

The Miley

Good flora and fauna records are kept by both Dundee Naturalists and the Scottish Wildlife Trust local group, who have been surveying and managing the site for many years. Over 200 plant species have been found and the area contains both native wildflowers and garden escapees.

Issues of community awareness are hugely important because of the central urban location of this reserve, backing on to housing estates and main roads. The Miley also backs on to Kingspark School who regularly use the site. The site was put forward in 2014 to gain extra Community Seedcorn Funding to increase access to the site, but this was unfortunately not successful.

Reres Park

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey regards Reres Park as "a valuable wildlife asset in a local context" being one of the few woodland sites in Broughty Ferry. The report recommends that the grasslands on the top of the hill require scrub management to prevent the loss of the small neutral and base rich outcrops. No changes in woodland management are suggested.

The Scoping Report has identified issues relating to community awareness. Throughout the scoping process it was clear that Reres Park is popular with the local community, in particular, the Broughty Ferry Community Council and the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project (BFEP). Therefore it will be important to further liaise with those groups and the local neighbourhoods when carrying out work in this site.

Riverside Avenue North

Some casual vegetative surveys have been undertaken here by members of Riverside Nature Park. These have not been formalised, but would benefit from doing so, in order to inform better management. There are several casual and formal paths across the area, connecting Riverside Avenue and the Nature Park with Perth Road, which would benefit from some maintenance. A more directed woodland walk could be implemented. This area provides a pleasant backdrop for the houses to the north and to those driving into Dundee along Riverside Drive, as well as an important biodiversity strip.

Riverside Drive East

The Scoping Report identified an issue regarding the rebuilding of Harris Academy which is located next to the woodland at Riverside Drive East.

Riverside Nature Park

In 2012 and 2014, the park underwent an internal Green Flag assessment. Issues identified were the poor surfacing in the car park, amount of dog mess on the paths, paths that have suffered from erosion and some graffiti spray on the interpretation signs.

South Road Park

In 2011, a quality survey based on the Green Flag Award assessment criteria was undertaken by Dundee City Council's Environment Department. Subsequently, an action plan was created. This included plans to install signage at all access points, refurbish the tennis courts, address graffiti problems on lock ups and other buildings and to continue to support local community groups.

In December 2012, a Green Flag internal audit was carried out and action plan developed. Action points in this plan include establishing wild flower areas, sign installation and addressing the graffiti problem.

Templeton Woods

A visitor counter was installed in the 1990's which estimated that 20,000 people used the woodland each year. Two permanent visitor counters have been installed as part of the September 2009 WIAT bid. Regular visitor surveys have been carried out in recent years including 2006, 2010 and 2011. The Council's Countryside Ranger Service and Elmwood College carried out a visitor number survey throughout Autumn 2011. From the data collected, it is estimated that approximately 79,000 people visit Templeton Woods each year. An interesting finding from this survey was that the most popular entrance to Templeton Woods is the link from Clatto Country Park and not the "main entrance" on Coupar Angus Road.

Dundee Habitats and Species Survey 2000 covered the whole of Templeton Woods and identified that "most of the semi-natural woodlands were of significant conservation interest". The survey highlights the importance of the natural regeneration areas of silver birch, downy birch, rowan and oak. Additionally, the planted areas of mature beech and oak are identified as being of considerable conservation value. The survey recognises the value of the varied woodland with conifers for red squirrel conservation and suggests management options allowing areas of oak and birch regeneration, removal of beech regeneration to favour pine, larch and hazel for squirrel conservation and thinning dense spruce plantations.

Dundee Red Squirrel Project survey transects have been carried out regularly in Templeton since 2002 recording changes in the population of red and grey squirrels helping direct red squirrel conservation. Dundee Naturebase has other records of sightings in Templeton Woods. In particular the Naturebase has a list of over 100 recorded fungi species which have been recorded at annual surveys by the Dundee Naturalist Society as part of a Fungal Foray event.

In 2001 "Paths in Templeton Woods - Local Opinions, Ideas and Priorities" identified where people walked, any barriers and the most and least liked parts of Templeton Woods and ideas on how the woods could be improved. Popular suggestions included improving the muddy paths, having lighting installed for security and keeping the pond clean. In November 2012, a Green Flag internal audit was carried out and action plan developed. Action points in this plan include installing new signage, repairing several paths and continue to try and form a Friends of Templeton Woods group.

The Scoping Report has identified that the entrance Templeton woods entrance linking to Clatto Country Park is one of the most well used (according to visitor survey described above) but under promoted. Improved signage, interpretation boards, removal of gate, installation of bollards and linkage of path network are required to upgrade this entrance. The Community Officer for this ward of Dundee also identified this as an issue as lack of signage and definite access way-marking causes confusion for visitors.

Part C – Analysis

Constraints and opportunities

Most of the constraints and opportunities regarding the woodland areas in Dundee are common among all small woodlands located within urban areas. Issues of vandalism, litter and anti-social behaviour are management problems that can be difficult to address. Through increased community engagement with the help of past and future funding, it is hoped that some of these issues can be reduced and positive interest in the sites increased.

The woodlands all have attributes that make them attractive places to visit. Several of the sites are significant viewpoints, for example Law Hill, Balgay Park, Camperdown Park and Reres Hill. Many are popular resources for different educational and physical activities, particularly Caird Park, Camperdown Park, Balgay Hill, Broughty Ferry LNR, Riverside Nature Park and Dawson Park. It is important that these uses are maintained and that sites with fewer formal and informal activities are developed and improved. Most of the woodlands have a diverse mix of tree species and generally good paths, making them suitable places for walking. There is an opportunity through future funding to improve the structural diversity of the woodlands, many of which are even-aged.

As all of the woodlands are within close proximity to house housing, they are very popular with dog walkers and whilst this can bring increased dog fouling, there is an opportunity to really engage local people with the woodlands, by communicating their benefits and inviting people to use them more often. Part of this will involve making the sites feel more welcoming and safer, in terms of both tree and personal safety. Future funding brings the opportunity to prune tall conifers and shrubs that cast shade around entrances, as well as ageing broadleaves at risk of limb drop and wind blow.

Landscape Assessment

There are several woodlands with particularly prominence within the wider landscape. These are: Greater Balgay; Caird Park; Greater Camperdown; Law Hill; Middleton Woods. With respect to their

significant viewpoints and positions within the surrounding area, all proposed thinning work will be small scale and will not have any significant visual impact. Work will be carried out sensitively in order to maintain and enhance the key characteristics of the site. New planting will encourage a diverse woodland whilst retaining an open view and enhancing the landscape for visitors to enjoy.

Those woodlands with less significant prominence within the landscape (Dighty Valley; Menzieshill; Riverside Drive East and Riverside Avenue North) will still receive small scale felling and thinning programs, limiting visual impact. Even within woodlands of low prominence, the tree cover is of vital importance, in providing character, visual appeal, shelter and shade and as such, woodland management works will be sensitive to these features, ensuring that there are no major visual changes to the woodland in the landscape.

Archaeological Assessment

Below are listed the archaeological records for the woodland sites in Dundee, as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

Table 3: Details of archaeological records for the woodland sites in Dundee.

Site	Number	Canmore ID	Feature
Balgay Cemetery	1	338742	War Memorial (20 th Century)
	2	290325	Cemetery
Balgay Hill	1	233275	Cast-iron footbridge
	2	233403	Mills Observatory
	3	239664	Groups of stone fragments and rose window which were moved to a secure location after 2002.
Baxter Park	1	232701	Lodge
	2	187608	Pavillion
Belmont Estate	1	30829	Lodge
	2	78901	Military Camp (20 th century)
	3	78902	Lodge
	4	79967	Farmstead
	5	30830	Walled Garden
	6	30827	Tower (Kirkhill Tower; Kirklands Tower; Kirkland of Meigle).
	7	30828	Stables
	8	30824	Macbeth's Stone – cup-marked stone; standing stone.
Caird Park	1	310389	Golf course site
	2	235203	Granary and horse engine house
	3	33530	Spring
	4	33474	Mains Castle
	5	33473	Burial Ground and medieval church
Camperdown Park	1	169317	Estate Cottage
	2	31972	Enclosure (possible)
	3	150234	Stable(s), tacksmans house
	4	31920	Settlement village and chapel (medieval)
	5	299145	Glasshouse(s)
	6	247718	Walled garden (19 th century)
	7	31962	Enclosure (possible)
	8	176559	Camperdown Park
	9	31956	Findspot, Axehead (stone)

	10	31965	Camperdown House
	11	31916	Cross Base – Kingscross, Standard stone
	12	31919	Lundie House
	13	310405	Golf course
	14	150242	West Gate – Lodge – Cup and ring marked stone
	15	31966	Souterrain stone
	16	150240	Pond
	17	260247	Stables (North Range)
	18	260249	Stables (South Range)
	19	150237	Stables (Centre Range)
	20	251879	Estate Cottage
Clatto Country Park	1	234568	Clatto reservoir
	2	234566	Worker's cottage
	3	234569	Sluice house
Dighty Valley	1 (Panmurefield)	233367	Road bridge
	2 (Panmurefield)	33447	Find spot – Lithic implements (flint- prehistoric)
	3 (W. Pitkerro)	273343	Find spot – Worked objects (stone)
	4 (W. Pitkerro)	234535	Linlathen house
	5 (W. Pitkerro)	119671	West bridge
	6 (M. O' Mains)	159469	Flour / grain mill
	7 (M. O' Mains)	186649	Tackman's house
	8 (Drumgeith)	184484	Park
	9 (Trottick)	33453	Claverhouse Castle (site of)
Law Hill	1	273349	Unidentified flint
	2	78707	War memorial
	3	31936	Fort (iron age)
	4	83306	Stone
Menzieshill	1	31951	Bullion (possible temp. Roman camp)
Middleton	-	-	No records.
Reres	1	187768	Public park
	2	186658	Archway
	3	242379	Fountain
South Road Park	1	31955	Balgarthno Stone Circle
	2	191676	Site of old Liff railway station
	3	312332	Site of old Dundee Floorcloth and Linoleum Co. Ltd. Factory.
Templeton Woods	1	158507	Farmstead

Historical Environment

As can be seen in the Table 3 above there is a varied collection of historical features in and around the sites in Dundee. Many of these features, in particular those in Balgay Hill, have been restored and developed in recent years, with major renovation work carried out on Balgay Bridge to ensure its safety and continued longevity for users. Mains castle in Caird Park was built in the 14th century and is maintained as a historical monument as well as a wedding venue.

Together Camperdown Park and Templeton woods formed the city's largest estate for the Earl's of Camperdown. The mature specimen trees in Camperdown park were planted in 1797, the concept of Robert Duncan, the first Earl of Camperdown. These historic trees are celebrated and promoted by the Camperdown Tree Trail, started in 2012. The trees in Templeton woods were planted from 1804 – 1859. The woodland has a history of felling and was used heavily between the two world wars.

The Dighty valley and burn are of significant historical importance for Dundee, as it provided the water and power for over 30 mills and bleach-fields sited along the burn. Old mill buildings are still located there. The archway at Reres was built in celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee visit to Dundee in 1887. Belmont estate has a large number of archaeological records on site, which is unsurprising as the castle was constructed in the 15th Century. The castle has been maintained since then as both

private living accommodation and as a care home. The outbuildings including the stables and lodges have also been maintained.

Ecological Assessment

As stated previously, a wide-ranging survey was conducted in 2000 of the habitats and species in Dundee. Many of the sites addressed in this Strategic Forest Plan were included in the survey and are described briefly below. Many of these have been identified as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) which is defined in the Dundee Local Development Plan as sites that are "locally important green spaces for nature conservation, designated because of the scale, diversity or kind of habitat that they support".

The importance of many of the sites in terms of ecological diversity is taken into account when prescribing management actions. Proposed operations will not impact on the site's ecology. Tree work will be carried out in order to promote biodiversity where possible, whilst minimising disturbance to wildlife. All proposed operations will take place at the appropriate time of year, avoiding the bird nesting season (April to September) and only attempting any major tree work when the sap has regressed, outside of the growing period.

Balgay Cemetery

Although not identified in itself as an Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), it is directly adjacent to Balgay Hill and will as such support some of the same important species as its neighbour. The mature trees will be important for both roosting bats and birds, and insects.

Balgay Hill

Balgay Hill was identified as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in the Habitats and Species survey in 2000 and in the Dundee Local Plan 2005. Its established plantations, mature yew trees and extensive oak woods are the largest in Dundee, with other notable specimen trees. It is also one of the important urban sites for red squirrels.

Baxter Park

Although not identified as an SINC, the mature and semi-mature trees are important ecologically for birds and bats, as well as insects.

Belmont Estate

Due to the woodlands position within the countryside and its large size, Belmont estate contains a wealth of wildlife. There are many woodland bird species here – particularly those that can readily exploit conifers including great, blue and coal tits, as well as goldcrests, red polls and the Scottish crossbill. Red squirrels are present, as are Roe deer which will use the whole estate. No recent floral or faunal surveys have taken place here.

Caird Park

Caird Park was identified as an SINC in the Habitats and Species survey, particularly concentrating on the woodland at Den O' Mains as being an important wildlife corridor. This area also contains two ponds, which were restored for wildlife several years ago and now the shaded wetland valley provides a home to a variety of wildlife. The ponds require regular management to maintain their biodiversity interest. This includes preventing vegetation becoming overgrown and the removal of silt and some leaf litter.

Rhododendron ponticum has spread extensively throughout much of the area and should be controlled to avoid change in the structure of the woodland, in particular, competition with native understory and ground flora species.

Camperdown Park

Camperdown has more woodland than any other park in Dundee and is home to a range of wildlife. As such, it is listed as a Nature Conservation Site and Community Wildlife Site in the Local Development Plan. The most famous tree within the park is the Camperdown Elm, *Ulmus glabra 'camperdownii'*, a unique weeping form of Wych elm; the original tree was first recorded in the park in 1835. Camperdown has been recognised by the National Tree Collections of Scotland (NTCS) for its fine collection of specimen trees. In celebration of this, the Council launched a new Camperdown Tree Trail at the Dundee Flower and Food Festival 2012.

Clatto Country Park

Clatto was identified as a SINC and attracts a variety of wildlife, in particular migratory ducks including pochard and goldeneye, which use the reservoir. A variety of fish can also be found here. A small population of red squirrels is present in the woodland as well, which mainly consists of Norway spruce, Scots pine, larch and Lodgepole pine. The park contains areas of mixed habitats including woodlands, open parkland and Clatto Reservoir. These support a number of interesting species such as greater knapweed, greater spearwort and yellow flag iris.

Dighty Valley

Within the valley, there is a wide range of well established habitats such as woodland, freshwater, ponds and meadows. Both the woodland and the meadow require continued management to impede encroaching weeds and to develop understory. Some interesting plants are found at Trottick in particular, including *Cardamine raphanifolia* (a bitter cress from southern Europe) and *Humulus lupulus* (hops). Both are presumed to be introductions and are uncommon regionally.

Trottick, Panmurefield, Mill O' Mains and parts of Drumgeith and West Pitkerro are identified as SINC's and the woodlands form part of the Dighty valley wildlife corridor, containing beech, sycamore, ash and elm. Trottick is additionally a Local Nature Reserve and Green Flag site.

Dudhope Corner

This is identified as an SINC and CWS by the Dundee Local Development Plan. The Habitats and Species Survey (2000) identified it as having good semi-natural woodland on volcanic outcrops. These have been 'modified and disturbed' but are a valuable wildlife asset and with proper management of both the plantations and natural regeneration, it can be improved. There has been a significant loss of elm trees due to Dutch elm disease so as a result extra planting may need to take place. Control of tall ruderal plants, particularly Rosebay willowherb, is important to make sure that newly planted trees can grow well.

Law Hill

The Law is identified as a Community Wildlife Site (CWS) and a SINC. There are areas of potentially good-quality grassland areas and mixed stands of both broadleaves and conifers, with much interesting edge habitat available for birds, pollinators and small mammals. Sparrowhawks and kestrels are seen here, as well as the occasional roe deer and fox. The grasslands have grown up and are rank in places, so much consideration needs to be given to their future management.

Menziesshill

The woodland areas in Menziesshill are important for common garden biodiversity in this urban environment. As well as trees, there are shrub beds, hedges, amenity grassland and unmanaged grass in some tree areas. The woodland areas will form important feeding areas particularly for garden birds and for bats which roost in the housing areas.

Middleton Woods

This was identified as an SINC in 2000 due to the large number of habitats and species found here, including young coniferous and deciduous plantation woodland, improved and neutral grassland, marsh areas, freshwater streams and a man-made pond. It is an important area for birds, particularly those that fly in from the neighbouring arable farmland for shelter and winter feeding, such as yellowhammers and linnets.

The Miley

The Miley is designated as an SINC and CWS. Vegetation surveys over the past 25 years on the site have identified 231 species of plant in total, with sparse faunal surveys identifying 25 species of bird present – four Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) species (black-headed gull, robin, siskin and song thrush) and two Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan species (bullfinch and song thrush). There are also two locally scarce floral species – Greater Knapweed and Giant Bellflower. It is locally important as it provides a sheltered, protected area for species to thrive within an urban environment.

Reres Park

Reres is identified as an SINC in 2000 and contains a variety of habitats including amenity grassland at the lower entrance and rougher grassland and mature woodland on the incline. There is the opportunity to develop the currently sparse understory and ground layer for wildflowers, insects and small mammals.

Riverside Avenue North

The Dundee Habitats and Species Survey in 2000 surveyed the eastern end of the site, finding no rare species, but a generally good grassland and woodland assemblage. It is not designated an SINC or CWS but is termed a Wildlife Corridor due to its connection with other similar habitats along Riverside Drive.

Riverside Drive East

Although this is not an SINC, there is a mix of species, all of which are now of an age where they can provide for a variety of species.

Riverside Nature Park

Riverside Nature Park is designated an LNR as part of the wider Inner Tay Estuary LNR. Numerous ad hoc wildlife surveys have been undertaken at the park by the Friends of Riverside Nature Park and as such the vegetative plant list in particular is quite substantial.

Templeton woods

Templeton is an SINC and is managed with the aim of preserving, enhancing and promoting the biodiversity of the site. Within the Dundee area, Templeton Woods is the largest area of continuous woodland, providing an ecological link between Dundee City and the Angus countryside. The woods provide habitat for a wide variety of species and has some rarer habitats such as small pockets of ancient birch woodland, containing wildflowers indicative of established woodland such as sorrel, woodruff, dog's mercury and bluebells. A variety of fungus is also found here, with regular fungi walks taking place, hosted by the Countryside Ranger Service.

Herbivore assessment

On all sites in Dundee, grey squirrel control and a deer management plan are in place. The situation is monitored on an annual basis by the Dundee City Council Environment Department.

Social impacts assessment

All of the woodlands in the Strategic Forest Plan have had a scoping report undertaken to assess their position within the community, how they are perceived by local and more distant residents, how they are used and how they could be developed and improved. Most of the woodland and associated park areas are used for a variety of activities including walking, running, cycling, dog exercising and picnics. Some are more functional, providing shelter for roads and housing. It is felt by most people that the woodlands greatly enhance the surrounding residential and commercial environment and also attract visitors to the area. Some are major landmarks, such as the Law Hill, which also contains regularly visited allotments.

Several of the sites have successful and dynamic local voluntary groups, who play a vital role in protecting and enhancing the parks, in particular Friends of Balgay Hill, Friends of Baxter Park, Dighty Connect, SWT Angus and Dundee Local Group, Friends of Riverside Nature Park and the Broughty Ferry Environmental Project. It is hugely important that Dundee City Council continues to work in partnership with the group to enable the input of local residents when developing the park. Middleton Community Woodland group has now dissolved following limited numbers and work needed. Trottick ponds in the Dighty valley benefits from being an LNR and receives Countryside Ranger Service time and resources. Regular volunteering sessions are also led at Templeton woods and on the Dighty, involving the local community. Friends of Riverside Nature Park run regular events throughout the year, which are supported by DCC.

The scoping exercise revealed that local people very much value the ecological aspects of the woodlands and want to see the woodland environments enhanced by improved maintenance and arboriculture. On some sites, such as Caird Park, where golf courses are present, this makes the woodland areas slightly inaccessible, which improved paths and signage would change for the better and are being considered in order to enhance these areas for people. Responses from local people revealed that increased interpretation, improved access and safety are particularly desired, particularly on the Law Hill, which was also part of a failed Heritage Lottery Fund bid (submitted June 2014).

Issues with vandalism, graffiti and neglect due to lack of finances continue to affect these urban sites. Middleton wood has suffered from a considerable amount of vandalism both to infrastructure and to the trees. In many cases, particularly with Middleton and Clatto Country Park, there is community interest in upgrading and rejuvenating facilities to create an attractive and diverse resource. Many of the woodlands are situated close to areas of multiple deprivation and therefore provide a valuable outdoor asset for the people of these communities (Dighty valley; Law Hill; Middleton Woods, Drumgeith Park, South Road Park). Liaison and engagement with the local community and the police is important here, in order to attract support, rather than negativity. Significant efforts have been made in relation to this by the Countryside Ranger Service.

Public Access

All of Dundee's woodlands are publicly accessible, often within just a few hundred metres of residences and are free to visit. Many are on core paths, which include both cycling and walking routes. Dundee City Council has an Outdoor Access Officer who attends to problems or queries regarding core paths and also develops ideas regarding better access on sites.

Balgay Cemetery

Core Path 2b, also known as Greenways West, skirts the southern boundary of Balgay Cemetery. Core Path 2, also part of Greenways West, cuts through the centre of Balgay Cemetery and Balgay Hill. These paths connect the cemetery with Blackness Road and Glamis Road, providing a route to Menzieshill and Ninewells hospital to the west and Dundee Law Hill, Dudhope Park and the City centre to the east. Vehicle access to the Cemetery edge is possible from Glamis Road.

Balgay Hill

There are five core paths, both bound and unbound. Core Path 2 is cited as a 'Greenway' cycle route. Paths are also promoted on the Dundee Mountain Bike Trails card 2. A signed 'Planet Trail' with panels and waymarkers has been installed across the hill. A road leads up from the north-west side to the top of the hill by Mills Observatory but is not publicly accessible, except to blue badge holders.

Baxter Park

Core Paths 6 and 6b cross in the centre of Baxter Park, allowing traffic free access for walkers and cyclists. CP 6 connects the Arbroath Road to the south with Dura Street to the north. CP 6b connects the Forfar Road to the west with the Old Craigie Road to the east. There are good paths across the park, with a central, main pavilion, large play area and bowling greens, making it a public-friendly accessible park. The Pavillion holds weddings and other events throughout the year. It is also a dog walking hotspot.

Belmont Estate

There are two Core Paths that run through the Belmont estate that form part of Perth and Kinross Council's Core Path Plan (2012). One Core Path comprises a minor road passing through from the Dundee Road and the Ardlar Road that allow access to the castle (MEGL/103). The other identified Core Path (MEGL/123) is an unsurfaced grass track alongside the playing field. The woods are publicly accessible from both sides.

Broughty Ferry Local Nature Reserve

There are two connecting Core Paths across the reserve – 31 which runs the length of the reserve from west to east and 31b which runs into the reserve over the railway line, from Shiell Street to the north. The paths throughout are good and CP 31 also connects with CP 1h, Broughty Ferry Esplanade, which is also part of National Cycle Route 77 and the Green Circular. The main three access points are from the Esplanade, as well as one from Shiell Street to the north, across a railway bridge.

Caird Park

There are two core paths, one of which crosses the 18-hole golf course. Paths leading to the Den O' Mains wetland areas are especially popular. There are both traffic free paths and quiet roads, highlighted on the Dundee Cycle Map, as well as a Mountain Bike Trail card (5) promoting a link to the velodrome from various paths.

Public pedestrian access to the park itself from outside is made more difficult by the large trunk roads either side (A90; A92). Pedestrian crossings and an underpass are available to aid access. The Green Circular runs to the north of Caird Park and crosses another busy road (Claverhouse Rd). Improved public access should be assessed, whereas vehicle access to a large car park on the north-eastern corner allows good access to the golf course, velodrome and stadium.

Camperdown Park

Six core paths serve Camperdown, including the Green Circular route, which also links to Templeton Woods. There are four colour coded way-marked routes and orientation maps in place to help people get around the woodland areas. Cycle parking and toilets are also available in the park for public use. The Camperdown trail network is promoted as routes on the Dundee Mountain Bike Trail Card 3. The park is used throughout the year for events including many involving outdoor access. Dundee Association of Mental Health cycle project and ParkRun use the park every week. Paths are unbound, desire line, cut grass or tarmac.

It is the largest continual outdoor facility in the region where local people can spend extended periods enjoying healthy activity such as walking, dog walks, running and cycling, without using the same section of path twice

Clatto Country Park

There are a number of paths that cross through and around Clatto, with further routes linking to Templeton Woods and the surrounding countryside. The Green Circular connects to Clatto and several traffic-free and quiet paths are identified on the Dundee Cycle map. Although the visitor centre is closed, it provides a hub with information boards and orientation maps outside. There are two play areas nearby as well.

The footpaths and main entrance are in a poor state, with muddy, eroded and overgrown sections in places. The tarmacked area is still in decent condition, but signage is in need of replacement, as are the wooden bollards that prevent vehicle access. The condition of the entrance has a detrimental impact on visitors' impressions so should quickly be addressed.

Dighty Valley

At least one core path serves all areas of the Dighty Valley, with several connected to the Green Circular.

At Panmurefield, one core path runs along the south side, which forms part of the GC. It also has a Mountain Bikes Trail card (no. 7).

At West Pitkerro two core paths link to woodland entrances, with two other aspirational core paths present elsewhere.

At the Arbroath Road section, two core paths link Balgillo Road and Arbroath Road.

At Baldovie, the Green Circular runs the length of the area, along the burn to the south of the site. It connects with CP 37 – the Baldovie path, which runs north to south, connecting with Drumgeith Road.

At Drumgeith, one core path and one aspirational path link up to Whitfield. The Green Circular follows the core path, with several other tarmacked, traffic-free paths connecting the surrounding roads.

At Finlathen there are two Core Paths across the park, one of which is the Green Circular. The other runs north to south across the Finlathen aqueduct, which was built in 1845.

Mill O' Mains is served by two core paths, one of which runs through Mill O' Mains park and has recently been upgraded around a new SUDS pond. There is also a core path providing access to the Claverhouse Industrial Park to the north. The Green Circular follows the core path from Claverhouse to the A90 bridge and is tarmacked. The park is linked well to neighbouring housing estates, primarily to the north and west, while the A90 and Dighty burn provide barriers to the east and south.

Trottick ponds are served by two core paths, including the Green Circular which directly crosses the area. A new path was constructed in 2012, but was washed away by heavy rain. Both tarmacked and unbound paths are present, with information boards at the Green Circular and the ponds themselves within the LNR.

Dudhope Corner

There is currently no formal public access to the site, as the set of steps leading from Lochee Road have been locked. There is a short desire line from Dudhope Gardens into the site.

Law Hill

There are three Core Paths on the Law which cross the hill, linking to housing areas. Two mountain bike trails around the hill are promoted by Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland. There are also several minor and unbound paths providing access around the woodland, many of which include steps. There are two healthy walk cards which promote walking to the Law as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Menziesshill

The woodlands and paths form attractive alternatives for active travel around the housing and to and from the local schools, away from busy roads. There are three core paths which serve the woodland areas of Menziesshill, one of which is promoted as part of the Dundee Green Circular and another is as a traffic-free cycle path. Most of the other minor paths in this area are tarmac surface and in reasonable condition. Paths are mostly level or on slight inclines and are suitable for wheel chairs and pushchairs. There are three orientation maps installed which have been vandalised.

Middleton Woods

There is one core path running from the north east to the south of the woodland. There is a way-marked trail around the wood with interpretation and orientation signs, which are occasionally vandalised. There are path links to the south of the wood, over a bridge with motorcycle barrier, to housing and to Braeview School via Berwick Drive.

Access to the car park is restricted to prevent fly-tipping and unauthorised vehicular access, although there is enough off-road parking for 3 to 4 cars.

The Miley

Core Path 11 connects the reserve with CP 13 (Cleington Road) and continues on to Loons Road. There is a surfaced path that runs the length of the site.

Reres

There is one core path which serves Reres Park which runs along Monifieth Road. Paths are also promoted on Dundee Mountain Bike Trail card 6 which link Reres Hill, Orchar Park and the Green Circular at the Esplanade. There are several paths which cross the park and lead to the top of the hill. There is no wheelchair access to the hill due to steep slopes and steps.

Riverside Avenue North

Flanked to the south by Core Path 1b, which is part of the Green Circular and National Cycle Route 77, there is also a central access path from the Perth Road (Core Path 48) and access from the eastern end via CP 71. There is a footpath running between these two access points, but less formal desire lines only, going westward from the central entrance point.

Riverside Drive East

Access to this woodland is very limited and not widely promoted. There is a path and steps in this area which lead up from the railway line towards the school grounds. However, this route does not provide public access to the school. A pedestrian bridge links the school over the railway, which is open to the public. Its replacement is to coincide with the renewal of Harris Academy.

Riverside Nature Park

The Green Circular runs to the north of Riverside Nature Park, allowing access via a pedestrian entrance to the north west directly from Riverside Drive, at the Invergowrie end of the park and Wright Avenue to the east. Vehicle access is available via Wright Avenue which leads to a rough-surfaced car park. The paths are good and no steps are situated here, allowing access for all. There is one aspirational Core Path which crosses the northern half of the park just south of the pool.

South Road Park

There are three core paths serving South Road Park, providing access from the North end to the South end of the park and from the West to the East, two promoted on the Dundee Cycle Map and one forming part of the Green Circular. The paths form part of the Dundee Railway Heritage Trail and also link with neighbouring housing areas.

Templeton woods

There are approximately 4000m of all-abilities accessible path through the woods, of which 1500m are part of Dundee's Green Circular and 3000m are Core Paths. There are a further 3400m of walks and bridleways, 2 leaflet-lead walks and 3 way-marked trails to guide people around the woods. There is

an un-staffed visitor centre with accessible toilet and car park. There are 12 entrances linking the local communities to the woods with several more informal entrances. The entrances have barriers to prevent cars being driven into the woods and 6 entrances have large inviting threshold signs, including 3 signs with maps.

The main car park and visitor centre form the hub of activity in the wood, the starting point for most of the leaflet trails and contact point with the Countryside Ranger Service. Paths and tracks radiate out from the hub; features are found along the spokes such as art works, squirrel feeders, benches, the ponds, high seat and the xylophone. These are attractive features encouraging interaction and longer, more interesting visits from a wider audience. Many paths in Templeton Woods have been prepared to include people with mobility problems. Seating is also provided at many locations to help others who are less able.

Mountain biking and horse riding are popular in Templeton Woods. Riders from Muirhead Stables are involved in joint events with the Countryside Rangers. The Templeton Tangle Mountain Bike skills trail was finished in 2014 with the help of Commonwealth Games 2014 Legacy funding. It is hugely popular with Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland, Discovery Cycle Club and other independent users.

Concept maps displaying information from Part C are in Appendix IV.

Part D – Management Proposals

Silvicultural policy

All of the woodlands in Dundee are managed on a continuous cover forestry (CCF) basis and the principles of Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) adopted. Small-scale selective felling (due to windblown areas), thinning and small-scale enrichment planting will be carried out. These operations will benefit and enhance the existing amenity and biodiversity interests and diversify the current age structure, by promoting natural regeneration and improve the landscape quality of the woodlands.

The woodlands are managed for recreation, rather than from a forestry perspective. There has been a significant amount of storm damage at Templeton and also at Balgay Hill and Camperdown Park, meaning that some major clearance work has taken place in the last few years, which will be both restocked and allowed to regenerate naturally where possible.

Management issues in many areas concern the provision of habitat for the population of red squirrels and the development of an understory with rich woodland flora both for conservation and as appropriate silviculture practice. As public personal security has been an issue, it is important to keep paths and edges clear, so that people feel safe. Maintaining structurally healthy trees is also a priority, particularly large specimen trees that are characteristic of the woods and their history.

Thinning, felling and restructuring

As the sites within the Strategic Forest Plan vary greatly in location, size, topography and species composition, there will be slight variations in the way that LISS is applied. This does not change the aim of LISS and CCF, which is to improve structure, form, biodiversity and tree quality.

Thinning will be carried out every 3-5 years with no more than 10-15% being removed in any one year except for clearing windblown areas. This aims to improve the overall form of the trees, by removing those dead, dying and suppressed trees; increase light levels and remove non-native regeneration, particularly sycamore, laurel and rhododendron. This is consistent with LISS management, which will be the dominant management approach here.

Timber removed during thinning works will be stacked to a low level, away from main paths and entrances. As thinning is infrequent and minimal in most of the woodlands, it is anticipated that there will be no issues relating to increased road traffic from forestry operation vehicles and machinery. As stated in the Public Access section (page 46) members of the public/ users will be advised in advance of thinning works taking place in the woodland.

Any deadwood in trees and on ground will be left where considered not to be a safety or fire hazard. Felling is only of any major wind-blow, in small areas. Care will be taken to avoid damage to veteran or notable trees.

New planting

New planting will be carried out to enhance biodiversity and amenity. The woodland will contain tree species of different origin but management of new planting will increase native species of trees and shrubs that will enhance the understory, creating a more diverse woodland structure. Planting will also occur in areas of significant storm damage, particularly at Templeton, Balgay and Camperdown Parks.

Management of Open Areas

All open areas will be maintained as open space by Dundee City Council's Environment Department. Grass and nettle areas are cut in the summer for recreational use and litter is gathered several times per week in most cases. Sites with extra features such as hedges and ditches will need extra maintenance.

Protection and Maintenance

All access points, boundary fences and walls will be monitored and repaired as necessary. Public motorised vehicles are only permitted access via the main public road. All Council owned woodlands are inspected a minimum of three times per year for safety and management reasons.

Biodiversity Management

Dundee's woodlands are managed for recreation and biodiversity, rather than from a forestry perspective. These urban woodlands provide many ecosystem services, particularly habitat for species, biological and climate regulation services and recreational facilities, helping to improve the visual appeal of the city. The woodlands of Dundee provide fundamental green infrastructure in Dundee and as such, enable woodland communities to co-exist with Dundee's citizens.

As with all urban areas, managing woodlands in Dundee for biodiversity and people is a careful balancing act. Whilst it is important to encourage well-structured woodland, it is also imperative that visitors feel safe whilst enjoying the greenspaces. Actions contained in this management plan will identify appropriate opportunities to improve the woodland structure by enhancing the shrub layer, woodland edge, glade and deadwood habitats.

Key species

The red squirrel is one of Dundee's success stories which has used the woodland habitat to expand its range from Templeton into the heart of the city at Balgay. The Dundee Red Squirrel Project was launched in 2004 and has played an active role in raising awareness of Red Squirrel conservation throughout Dundee, as well as an involvement in the management of Grey Squirrels throughout the City. Public support and awareness of the issues surrounding Red Squirrel conservation was seen as vital for the success of the Project, which centred on the urban areas of Dundee. Volunteer Red Squirrel surveyors were recruited to monitor the Red Squirrel population. The level of funding for the project has declined in recent years, but the active management of Grey Squirrels, necessary for the survival of Dundee's Red Squirrels, continues until 2017 through a successful application to the SRDP.

There are a range of key species identified in the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan that are supported by Dundee's diverse woodlands. These include bat species of conservation concern, such as the pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and the natterer's bat (*Myotis nattereri*), which will use woodland edge habitat for foraging and older trees with fissures for roosting sites. It is recognised that all bat species found in Scotland are classed as European protected species and are protected under the Habitats Regulations 1994. In order to comply with this legislation, checks for bats and bat roosts will be undertaken in advance of any tree work.

The range of woodland types found Dundee from mature and young woodland to scrub and wet woodland provide excellent habitat for a variety of bird species, including nationally declining species such as bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and dunnoek (*Prunella modularis*) and migrants such as the chaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

Management of deadwood

Deadwood is an important part of the woodland ecosystem supporting a wide range of invertebrate and fungus species as well as providing nesting habitat for birds such as woodpeckers (*Piciformes* spp.), treecreepers (*Certhia familiaris*) and tits (*Parus* spp.) as well as supporting invertebrate and fungus species. The devil's coach horse (*Ocypus olens*) in particular is reliant on deadwood to complete its lifecycle. Actions contained in this management plan will identify appropriate opportunities for both standing and lying deadwood.

Wetland Management

Wetland habitat is a scarce habitat within Dundee and supports a wide diversity of plants and animals. Actions which protect and enhance damp / marsh areas and ponds in woodlands will be supported by this management plan in appropriate locations. This is particularly relevant along the Dighty burn, which itself is obviously fresh running water, with some areas of standing water and ponds along its

course. Brown trout (*Salmo trutta fario*) are also found along the Dighty, thanks to the improvement of the water quality since the industrial era.

Herbivore impacts

Tree damage by roe deer is mostly minimal, primarily due to past management practices by the City Council's Environment Department. Different herbivore management is needed at the different sites, due to their varying size and proximity to housing and risk of vandalism. Where sites have been subjected to vandalism in the past, or where they are particularly close to housing, tree guards may not be used. Areas are monitored to ensure tree guards and deer or protective fencing are not a target for vandalism. Deer, rabbit and grey squirrel numbers are monitored by the Council's Environment Department.

Tree health and Biosecurity

Dundee City Council will co-operate with the guidance issued by Forestry Commission Scotland when applying measures to prevent the introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases. For the past 20 years, the Council has obtained the majority of its new trees from a nursery in East Lothian. This nursery sources and grows its trees in Scotland, without importing seeds or saplings from Europe where diseases are commonly found hence lowering the risk of infection.

Action plans issued by Forestry Commission Scotland in March 2013 for the management of Chalara dieback of ash, Ramorum on larch and Dothistroma needle blight. At present, there have been no confirmed records of any of those three diseases in Dundee. However, considering the presence of Ash dieback in surrounding regions, it is anticipated that the infection will impact Dundee this year. The Council will follow guidance to remain vigilant, monitor tree health and promote the management of leaf litter and chipped material from infected trees.

Control of invasive species

Invasive species such as giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) reduce the value of the habitats in which they are found. Monitoring will be carried out as part of the routine inspection regime and problems will be assessed and species controlled.

There are several sites around Dundee where Giant hogweed is found and there is a city-wide initiative to tackle this invasive. The Dighty burn in particular has seen Giant hogweed spread quickly.

An incident of garden fly tipping next to Templeton Woods has led to an introduction of a small area of Japanese knotweed. Monitoring will identify any worsening of the problem.

Himalayan balsam and Canadian willowherb are present on Balgay Hill, along the Dighty and at Caird Park and will be controlled as necessary.

Public Access

As stated above, all public access to woodland greenspaces is free and people are encouraged to use the woodland areas. During thinning and felling operations however, public access will need to be restricted to small parts of the woodland, for public safety. Restrictions will be minimal with suitable diversions and informative signage will be put in place;

- * Information will be provided at the main access points (car parks, gates), which will include location and duration of works;
- * Local users and residents will be informed of operations taking place;
- * Operations will be concentrated at times of day and week when public use is likely to be lowest;
- * Site operators will be made aware of public use;
- * When operations end, signs and notices will be removed and previous access can resume;
- * Affected paths will be reinstated.

Core path use restrictions will be avoided, but where forestry operations will affect a core path signage will be installed four weeks prior to the works, with warning of the work to be undertaken and

alternative routes, as well as a press notice if necessary. Signage will also be updated during the works and will be removed as soon as operations are completed.

Over the past decade, major repairs and improvements have been carried out over many of the park and woodland areas in Dundee; however, many still require some repair. Particular improvements and issues are detailed below.

Balgay Cemetery

Some of the smaller paths on higher ground need repair and resurfacing due to excessive wear and uneven camber. There are some sets of steps that also need repair and are becoming dangerous in their current condition.

Balgay Hill

In 2010 a major path and step improvement project was carried out, although there is still some need for repairs in places. Path use will guide future work.

Baxter Park

The paths in Baxter Park are good and generally wide with hard surfacing.

Belmont Estate

The majority of the paths through the woodlands areas are unsurfaced and are in rough condition, with uneven surfacing and many puddles. The Core Path (MEGL/103) is surfaced and wide and forms a minor road. The path between the archway and the campground is maintained by the Scottish Outdoor Education Centre. Path improvements are needed throughout much of the estate.

Caird Park

Some paths need resurfacing due to excessive wear leading to uneven camber. Pedestrian access into the park also needs to be investigated and improved. As stated earlier, a user survey investigated the risk associated with one of the core paths crossing the golf course. Actions proposed include additional safety signage and to repeat the survey in the near future to assess change.

Camperdown Park

Several access routes in Camperdown have had recent remedial work, more of which is to be carried out during winter 2012. More extensive work to pedestrian and cycling entrances are also detailed in the Camperdown Development Plan 2012-2017 which is currently being prepared. Due to the danger of crossing the Coupar Angus Road, horse riding has become a less popular activity in the park. In order to address the traffic issue, Dundee Local Access Forum and Sidlaw Path Network Group have requested a 'pegasus crossing' at this point however this has not yet been successful.

Clatto Country Park

There are many elements at Clatto that need to be addressed. A lack of funding means that only the main path receives very occasional repairs. The way-marked trail through Baldragon Wood but it is in disrepair.

Dighty Valley

It is recognised that along the valley some of the unbound steps and paths require repairs, but there are waymarkers and maps highlighting circular trails particularly at Panmurefield. The Green Circular is the main path through many of the areas and is in good condition. Increased interpretation along the main paths would benefit.

There is a 'missing link' on Core Path 22 at West Pitkerro, which has been highlighted and needs attending to.

At the Arbroath Road and Mill O' Mains, there have been issues with paths in the past few years relating to Giant hogweed which is present over the whole site and is being heavily targeted by Dundee City Council.

Dudhope Corner

No paths currently run through the site, but a decision can be made as to whether a path through part of the woodland is suitable and would be used by the public.

Law Hill

Public access will be encouraged along existing routes within the woodland. Access routes will be upgraded to improve access for walkers and cyclists and where possible for wheelchairs and prams, although due to steep inclines some access routes are not suitable for wheelchairs and prams. Almost all of the paths and steps of the Law require investment. The majority of steps are rotting and require replacement. Small scale thinning and vegetation control is required to make the woodland walk more attractive and safe for people to access. The woodland also contains way-markers, benches and bollards which need to be repainted. New interpretational and orientation signage is desirable and is a major part of a recent failed HLF bid (June 2014).

Menziesshill

Although there are no plans to improve the paths around Menziesshill, there is a desire to make the areas of woodland more accessible for those undertaking active travel to and from work or school.

Middleton Woods

Since the paths were formalised here, they have suffered significantly and have been damaged by motorcycles so are no longer suitable for wheelchairs and prams. Motorcycle barriers and an increase in police monitoring have reduced the problem, but alter access for other members of the public. The paths have had limited maintenance and are in need of resurfacing in places and in need of increased path-side vegetation management in order to prevent them becoming more overgrown.

Fencing around new plantations and the SUDS pond restrict access to nearly half the site, although in places the fence is not functional, allowing access. A lockable barrier gate similar to that found at the entrance on 'the hazels' to the south of the site, should be installed, enabling easier access for rangers and visitors when invited. Ideally, a new public entrance would be created that faces toward, rather than away from, the communities that it serves. Currently the car park and the portacabins are situated some distance from the nearest housing, meaning that the site's main entrance is not particularly obvious. The cabin could be moved nearer to this new public entrance, onto high ground near to the SUDS pond. A new path network could then be developed, improving access to the SUDS pond, including raised boardwalks to navigate some of the wetter sections, which should be developed in their own right.

The Miley

There have been many path improvements over the past few years, through Forestry Commission funding, having flooded badly in the past due to slight sloping and poor surface quality. An access ramp has been installed where previously there were only steps, allowing increased access for those with mobility problems. A search for funding is currently proceeding to allow increased access for the pupils and staff from the neighbouring Kings Park School. Additional improvements to the school grounds will be undertaken as well as installing a gate directly from the school into the Miley.

Reres

The surfaces are variable, some with well worn tarmac and shallow steps. Near to the top of the hill are several narrow paths which have become overgrown.

Riverside Avenue North

The Core Path connection in the centre of the site is hard, but rough surfaced and will be in need of repair in the near future. The other paths are not Core Paths but are desire lines, with no surfacing. These are not part of the main path network and as such there are no plans to upgrade.

Riverside Drive East

The paths and steps are overgrown by the surrounding vegetation which further restricts access.

A potential access issue was identified during the scoping process regarding the demolition and re-building of the Harris Academy building. It is anticipated that access to the woodland for carrying out tree work might be restricted by construction work at the school site. In order to overcome this issue, Forestry Officers will liaise closely with the construction contractors.

Riverside Nature Park

The paths are wide and hard surfaced throughout the park, however there are some areas where drainage is inadequate and not only causes flooding but has washed away the surface of the non-tarmac paths. There is also an issue with the paths adjacent to the recycling plant.

South Road Park

At present, there are no plans to upgrade the paths at South Road Park as they are in acceptable condition. The Green Flag Action Plan written in 2011 identifies plans to install signage at all access points to the park.

Templeton Woods

Overall, public access is freely available and promoted throughout the woodland except areas fenced for establishment, log piles and when work requires safety exclusion such as felling. Way-marked routes, signs and leaflets will continue to be updated to help guide visitors around the woodland. Vegetation (nettles, branches) will be cut back from paths if needed.

The Environment Department staff record and report to the police illegal activity and anti social behaviour. Litter will be removed from the car park and visitor centre every week and from the rest of the woods through community clean ups and occasional ranger activity.