Mid Deeside Limited

Bell Wood and Lady Wood

Forest Plans
2011 – 2030

Mid Deeside Limited
Victory Hall, Ballater Road, Aboyne
Aberdeenshire
AB34 5HY

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Bell Wood

Forest Plan
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Name of Woodlands

This Woodland Management Plan covers the 109.35 ha of the Bell Wood.

1.2 Date of Plan Production

This Plan was produced for Mid Deeside Limited by Irvine Ross of the Ross Partnership and adopted by the board of MDL in ?? 2010

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1.3 Legal Status

The Bell Wood is wholly owned by Mid Deeside Limited. The woodlands were purchased from Glen Tanar Estate by Mid Deeside Limited (MDL) in 2003.

2 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location

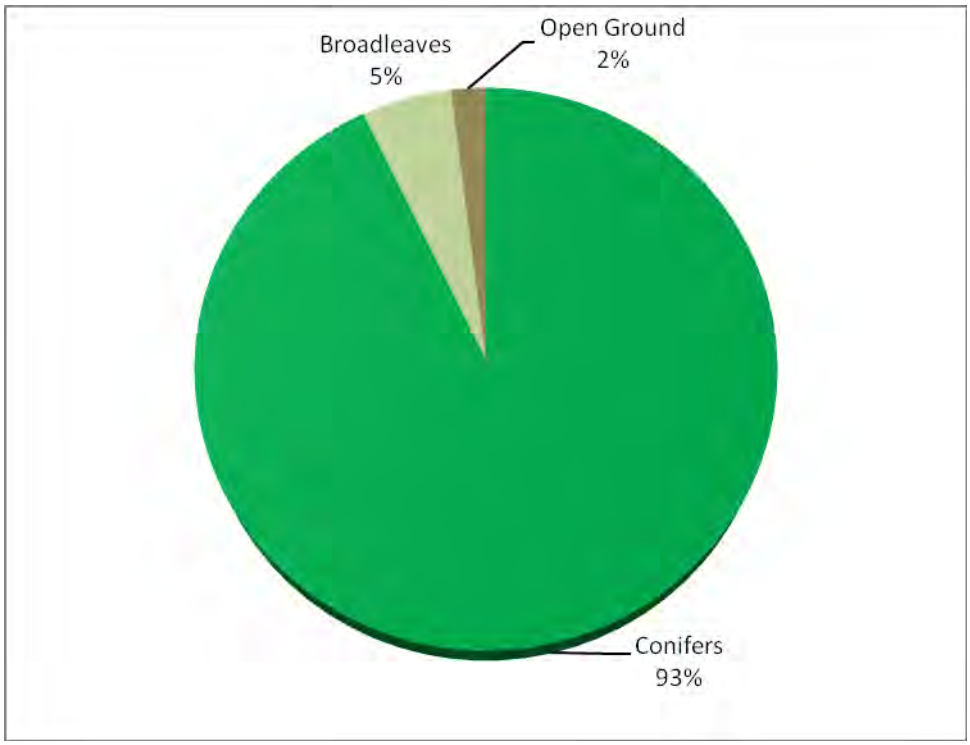
The Bell Wood is located on the eastern side of the village of Aboyne in Aberdeenshire (See Map 1 Location). The village lies near the middle of the valley of the River Dee some 30 miles west of the city of Aberdeen.

2.2 Area Statement

Table 1.
Combined areas

	Area (ha)	%
Conifers	101.6	92.9%
Broadleaves	5.6	5.2%
Open Ground	2.2	2.0%
Total Area	109.4	100.0%

Figure 1
Area analysis



2.3 Status

The River Dee and its tributary the Tarland Burn form part of the River Dee Special Area for Conservation. The qualifying interests are: Atlantic salmon, otter and freshwater pearl mussel. As the Tarland Burn forms the southern boundary of the Bell Wood and the woodlands lie close to the River Dee they are likely to be affected in some way.

There are no Plantations on Ancient Woodland (PAWS) in the Bell Wood. Parts of Cpt 1 and 2 and part of Cpt 9 are listed on the Schedule of Ancient and Semi Natural Woodlands as "Long established of Plantation Origin"

There are no other designations that affect the Bell Wood.

2.4 Land Use History

The Bell Wood was for many centuries part of the lands of Aboyne Castle Estate. The Ordnance Survey map of 1871 shows the area of the Bell Wood as rough grazing with a track passing through the northern part of the property to the farm of Muiryhall.

By 1897 the farm at Muiryhall had been abandoned and all of the Bell Wood is shown as coniferous woodland. By 1908 a small portion of the woodland near the southern boundary had been lost, perhaps due to fire or windblow, and for the first time the name Bell Wood appears on the map.

By 1929 much of the woodland had been cleared with a small proportion remaining along the western and north eastern boundaries. The remainder is shown as having widely scattered broadleaved trees.

In the late 1950s the western part of the Bell Wood was purchased by Glen Tanar Estate and was bare of trees. At this time the eastern end was part of Drumnagesk Estate and much of that area had been planted with conifer trees sometime around 1940. A programme of tree planting was carried out by Glen Tanar Estate in 1959 and 1960 to restock all the bare areas in the western end. In the mid 1980's Glen Tanar Estate purchased the eastern end of the wood and the Bell Wood became the single property we know today. Mid Deeside Limited, purchased the woodlands from Glen Tanar Estate in 2003.

2.5 Soils and Geology

The underlying rock is Dalradian limestone but this is deeply buried under layers of coarse fluvio-glacial outwash of mixed, mainly acidic origin. The soils vary considerably over the property. Well drained, stony forest brown earth and podzolised brown earths are found at the northern end of the wood. In the middle parts of the wood on the concave slopes, wet ground water gleys predominate interspersed with dry ridges of podzolised brown earth. Ground water gleys are also found in level areas along the banks of the Tarland burn. In the southern part of the wood, on an old river terrace, dry stony podzols are the most common soil type.

A small area, near the main entrance gate, was at one time the main ash and rubbish dump for the village of Aboyne. Here the thin layer of top soil lies over mounds of coal ash and old bottles and pottery.

2.6 Elevation, Aspect and Topography

The wood lies in the valley of the River Dee at an elevation of 120 to 160 metres a.s.l. The land to the north rises to 380 metres at the summit of Mortlich hill some 3km away and the land to the south rises to over 300m at the summit of Birsemore Hill some 2km away.

The aspect is southerly and the land is mainly level at the northern end with a gentle slope to the southern boundary throughout most of the wood. The slopes become moderate towards the eastern end.

Windthrow Hazard: No systematic Windthrow Hazard Class assessment has been carried out, however spot sampling shows that the woodlands lie in areas of low hazard. The highest hazard classes are around WHC 3 at the upper margins of woodland. The DAMS scores (a measure of exposure) at these altitudes are around 12. The more sheltered slopes in the lower part of the wood have a score of around 10. These figures confirm that exposure should be no severe limitation to the growth of coniferous tree species over all the area of site.

2.7 Hydrology

Along much of its length, the southern boundary of the wood is formed by the Tarland Burn which joins with the River Dee nearby. As mentioned in Section 2.3 the River Dee and the Tarland Burn are a Special Area for Conservation The qualifying interests are: Atlantic salmon, otter and freshwater pearl mussel.

There are no natural water courses flowing through the woodland but a network of ditches has been dug throughout the woodland. One of them carries the surface water drainage from parts of the housing estate on the western boundary. Part of the network of ditches discharges onto the flood plane of the Tarland Burn at a point roughly midway along Cpt 9. From there it seeps through the ground and into the watercourse. The other section of drain seeps away through a settling pond that only fills at times of high water flow.

2.8 Adjacent Land-uses

The land to the west is occupied by a residential housing development and several of the back gardens butt directly onto the wood. To the north are arable fields and to the east is permanent grazing on Bellwade farm which belongs to World Horse Welfare and provides a refuge for horses in poor condition. To the south is a narrow strip of land between the Tarland Burn and the River Dee on which is located some arable land, some rough grazing and the sewage treatment plant for Aboyne.

2.9 Vegetation

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out in August 1999. A final copy of the survey report has not been found however a near final draft has been obtained.

The survey report stated that no species of great note was found within the Bell Wood. The ground vegetation in the plantation areas is poor, being confined to mosses and acid grassland with little plant diversity. Under the dense stands of spruce, vegetation is almost entirely confined to mosses. This remains true at present however future successive thinning of the standing trees will allow increasing levels of light through to the forest floor and encourage a wider range of plant species.

On the drier sites the common acid grasses are wavy hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and common bent (*Agrostis capalaris*). Occasional shade bearing herbaceous species are wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosela*) bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and heath bedstraw (*Galium saxitale*). Under stand of pure Scots pine, sparse heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) is found mixed with the abundant wavy hair grass.

Many of the plants of the drier sites mentioned in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey are characteristic of the National Vegetation Classification W18 *Pinus sylvestris – Hylocomium splendens* woodland. Other species typical of this plant community that are known to occur in Bell Wood are creeping lady's-tresses (*Goodyera repens*), chickweed wintergreen (*Trientalis europaea*) and blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). *Hylocomium splendens* is one of a number of mosses present.

In more open areas along rides and at the plantation edges, bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) become more abundant and raspberry (*rubus idaeus*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica*) are more frequent.

In the wetter areas the acid grasses are found in mixtures with cross leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulae*) and various rushes (*Juncus spp*). In addition to the above, in areas of severely impeded drainage butterwort (*Pinguicla vulgaris*) bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) are found with occasional creeping willow (*Salix repens*)

Within the area of semi natural broadleaved woodland the diversity of species is greater. However bracken is dominant on much of the better dry ground and its dense shade inhibits other ground flora. Tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) is frequent along with wavy hair grass and common bent. The range of herbaceous species is wider and includes tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), dog violet (*Viola canina*), melancholy thistle *(Cirsium heterophyllum)* raspberry and wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)

Meadow thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*) is mentioned in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey but is a southern species and probably a misidentification of melancholy thistle.

In the wetter, alder dominated broadleaved woodland, purple moor grass is common along with bog asphodel, velvet bent (*Agrostis canina*) and various rushes and sedges (*Carex spp*)

A range of fungi play an important role in the ecosystem of the wood as mycorhizzal symbionts (mineral/nutrient exchangers with plants), parasites, saprotrophs (dead wood and leaf litter recyclers) and as food for invertebrates and rodents. A full survey has not been carried out, but known species include false morel *(Gyromitra esculenta)* – with pine and other conifers, fly agaric *(Amanita muscaria)* – with birch, hoof fungus/tinder bracket *(Fomes fomentarius)* and birch polypore/razorstrop fungus *(Piptoporus betulinus)* – both parasitic on birch, yellow stagshorn *(Calocera viscose)* – on conifer stumps/roots and sulphur tuft *(Hypholoma fasciculare)* – on tree stumps.
Lichens (each species an alga and fungus growing in symbiosis) are also prevalent on trees and other substrates in the wood, e.g. beard lichen *(Usnea subfloridana)*, an indicator of good air quality.

As the initial Phase I survey was carried out 11 years ago and has never been systematically repeated or verified, it would be advisable to repeat the survey in a few years time once the opening up of the tree canopy by thinning has had time to take effect.

2.10 Fauna

Mammals :

Red Squirrel is a UK BAP Priority Species and Deeside is one of its strongholds. There is a breeding population resident in the woodlands and surveys are being carried out by local residents to give a best estimate of distribution and density as part of the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project.'

Otters are known to frequent the Tarland Burn and their scats are frequently observed.

Badgers there are no known badger setts in the Bell Wood.

Roe deer are present but are generally retiring in nature due to the high level of public usage of the woods

Red deer are not known to be present

Rabbits are infrequently seen around the fringes of the neighbouring agricultural areas. There has been no programme of systematic control.

Pine Marten in recent years sightings of pine marten have become more frequent on Deeside and are presumed to be established in woodlands around Aboyne. Probable droppings have been found in Bell Wood.

Bats Common pipistrelles patrol rides in Bell Wood for insect prey and are likely to roost in nearby buildings, but may also use suitable mature trees as summer roosts. Other species (e.g. Soprano pipistrelle, Brown long-eared bat, Daubenton's bat) could be present, but have not been recorded.

Other Common Mammals such as fox, stoat, weasel are common in the area. No systematic information is available on small mammals such as voles, shrews and field mice but they have all been observed from time to time.

Birds:
A complete breeding bird survey, following BTO protocols, was undertaken on 5/4/99 and 4/5/99. The bird survey identified over two dozen species present:

Black headed gull	Greenfinch	Oystercatcher
Blackbird	Grey wagtail	Pheasant
Buzzard	House sparrow	Robin
Carrion crow	Jackdaw	Rook
Chaffinch	Lapwing	Swallow
Coal tit	Magpie	Willow warbler
Dunnock	Mallard	Wood pigeon
Goldcrest	Meadow pipit	Wren
Great tit	Mistle thrush	

A more recent survey,carried out over the period 2007 – 2010, identified 45 species of birds present in and around the Bell Wood over all the seasons of the year. Of these 10 species were confirmed as breeding. The full list of birds recorded for the BTO Bird Atlas 2007 – 2011 can be found in Appendix 5

Reptiles and Amphibians:
Common frogs breed in ditches in Bell Wood. Common toad, palmate newt, common lizard and slow-worm are all present in the Aboyne area and may inhabit Bell Wood, though not necessarily breed there.

Invertebrates :
A programme of recording moths and butterflies has been carried out in the Bell Wood over the period 2003 – 2010. The methods used included live trapping and day time observation. To date a total of 80 species of moths have been recorded. 14 of the 80 species recorded to date are local and/or scarce or rare in NE Scotland and of these 2 are UK BAP Priority Species namely Sword-grass and Brindled Beauty. However irregular recording and incomplete coverage mean that many more moth species are likely to be present in the Bell Wood.

6 of the 11 butterfly species recorded to date in Bell Wood are local and/or scarce in NE Scotland, though of these Northern Brown Argus (UK BAP Priority Species) record is of a presumed stray and Peacock are becoming more common. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is a UK BAP Priority Species as is the Small Heath, though the latter is common in NE Scotland. The Speckled Wood is a recent arrival on Deeside (within last few years).

The full list of Lepidoptera recorded can be found in Appendix 6

There is limited information on other families of invertebrates as no other studies have been carried out to date. However common hawker dragonfly, golden-ringed dragonfly, large red damselfly and common blue damselfly have all been observed along rides and in open areas of Bell Wood

Pine weevil are invariably found on re-stock areas in large numbers and systematic applications of insecticides are necessary to ensure the survival of the young trees.

2.11 Existing Woodlands

2.11.1 Species:

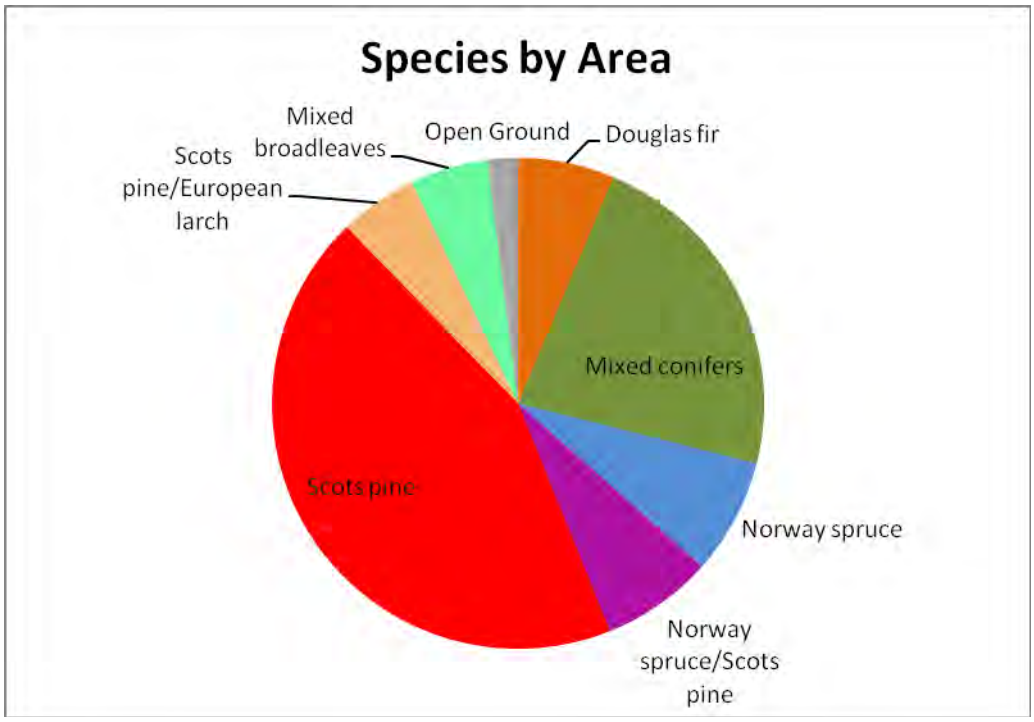
The full compartment schedule is contained in Appendix 1. The distribution of the woodlands is shown in Map 3 and the analysis by species is shown in Table 3 and Figure 2.

The Bell Wood was planted with a fairly complex mosaic of tree species heavily influenced by the methods of Professor Anderson of Edinburgh University. The design was intended to grow the most suitable species on each of the variety of soil types found within the wood.

Table 3
Area by Species

Species	Area (ha)	%
Douglas fir	7.0	6.4%
Mixed conifers	24.7	22.6%
Norway spruce	8.3	7.6%
Norway spruce/Scots pine	8.0	7.3%
Scots pine	48.0	43.9%
Scots pine/European larch	5.6	5.1%
Mixed broadleaves	5.6	5.2%
Open Ground	2.2	2.0%
Total Area	**109.4**	**100.0%**

Figure 2

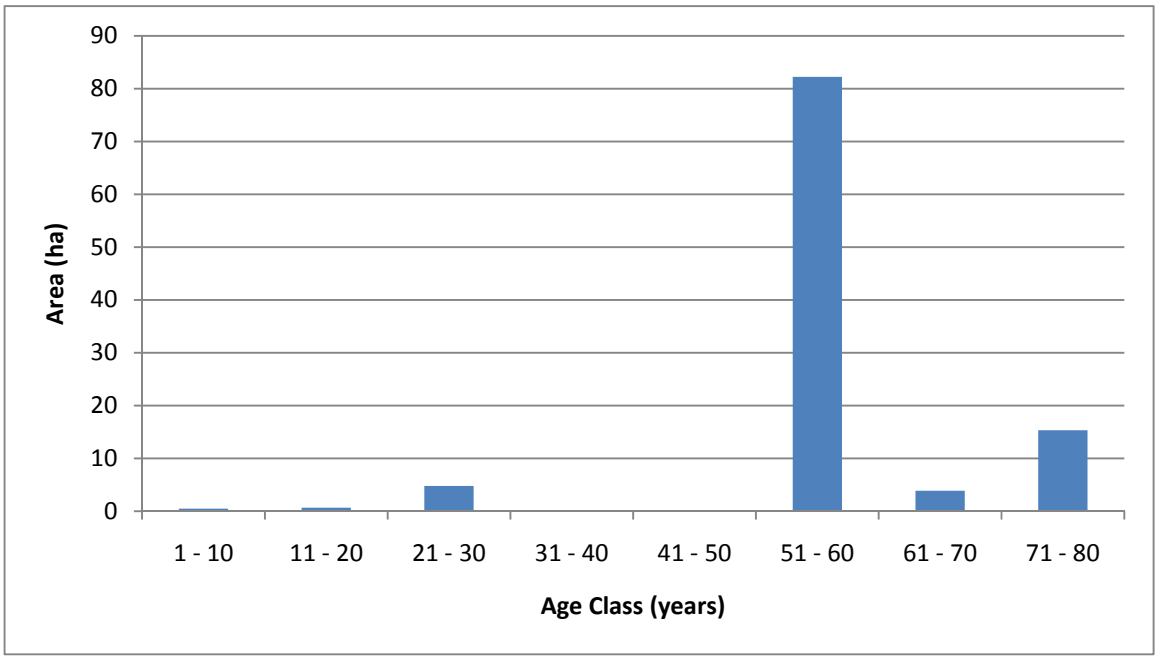


Because of the extent of relatively infertile, dry podzolic soils, Scots pine occupies some 48% of the stocked area of woodland. Douglas fir and larch species are favoured on the more fertile brown earth soils. On the wetter sites stands of Norway spruce or mixed conifers have been planted. The most common species found in the mixed stands are Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, lodgepole pine and Scots pine.

2.11.2 Age:

The distribution of age class by area is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3



The 85.45 ha in Cpts 1 – 9 were planted over the two planting season in 1959 and 1960 so a large proportion of the standing crop is virtually even aged. However the existing narrow strip of broadleaves along the Tarland Burn was retained as were the individual large mature Scots pine and broadleaves which are thinly scattered over the 9 compartments.

These stand have been regularly thinned with the objective of developing, where possible, stable stands of trees which will be be windfirm at maturity and can be restocked using selective felling systems.

The Scots pine in Cpt 10 were planted sometime around 1940. A selective shelterweood felling was carried out in 2005 to encourage natural regeneration and an understory of birch is beginning to develop.

At the eastern end of the wood Cpt 11 was felled and replanted with mixed Douglas fir and Sitka spruce in 1988

In Cpts 12 and 13 are stands of birch estimated to be around 60 years old. In Cpt 12, on the better well drainded soils, the birch was underplanted with ash and gean in ?? Cpt 13 on wet ground is pricipally of interest for biodiversity.

In 1995 an area of 0.6ha in Cpt 3b was cleared to allow a new drain to be dug to lead water away from the adjacent housing development. This was replanted with mixed native broadleaves. After the area was planted the stocking was augmented by mixed conifer and birch natural regeneration.

During the past 5 years two small areas of 0.46 ha in Cpt 4h and 2.17 ha in Cpt 5d have been clear felled. The smaller area is already well stocked with self seeded mixed native broadleaves, mainly downy birch and alder. The larger area has not been replanted and is

intended to provide open ground habitat to benefit wildlife. However some re-colonisation by native broadleaves is taking place.

2.11.3 Condition:

The majority of the woodland is in good health with rates of growth compatible with site conditions. The stands have been regularly thinned and, on the dry soils, are reasonably wind stable. The stands on the dry soils are principally made up of Douglas fir, Scots pine, larch and mixtures of the two latter species.

On the wetter sites are stands of Sitka spruce, Norway spruce and lodgepole pine, either pure or in mixtures. In the absence of any exceptional weather conditions, most of these stands can be expected to remain stable for the next decade or so. However two areas, both of Norway spruce show indications of liability to windblow and may suffer serious damage in the near future.

Part of Cpt 9 is exceptionally wet as the main ditch discharges into this area and then is directed to seep into the ground over a wide area to prevent silt flowing into the Tarland Burn. The Norway spruce stand growing in this area displays scattered windblown trees.

Similarly the Norway Spruce in Cpt 5a shows scattered windblow in a site with a high water table and cannot be expected to remain stable in the longer term.

2.12 Archaeology

There are no known archaeological sites within the Bell Wood. The track just outside the northern boundary is the Old Deeside Road and all the traffic to and from the east of Aboyne would have passed along this route. The road was moved to its current alignment, further north and near to Aboyne Loch, in the early nineteenth century. The remains of the old Muiryhall Farm lie on the neighbouring property just to the east of Cpt 4.

The land in Cpt 3b and 3d was at one time the Aboyne ash dump. Here there is a low mound of old coal ash with a mixture of old bottles, broken pottery and other domestic rubbish. The use of the ash dump had ceased before planting took place in 1959.

2.13 Landscape

The Bell Wood is not easily visible from a distance from any point north of the River Dee. It lies to the south of the A93 North Deeside Road but, as it is on a south facing slope, only the upper margin is visible and it does not lie in the main line of sight of travellers on that road.

The Bell Wood is briefly visible from a few points on the B976 South Deeside Road but it is largely screened by the plantation trees on the south side of the River Dee and by the broadleaved riparian trees along the river bank.

When approaching from within the village the Bell Wood appears only as the back drop behind the residential developments along its eastern side. The main visual significance of

the Bell Wood is the internal landscape of mixed semi-mature woodland that provides the pleasant sheltered environment for the recreational visitor.

2.14 Recreation

The Bell Wood has been used for many years for casual recreation by the local community. The importance of the woodland for recreation was the main incentive for the purchase of the woodland by Mid Deeside Ltd.

Once the woodland had been acquired a plan was drawn up and funding obtained to improve the access facilities. Between 2005 and 2008 some 6,000 metres of footpaths were constructed, of which some 2,000 metres are suitable for wheelchair access. (See Map 9)

From a survey done in 2005 it was estimated that there were approximately 20,000 individual visits made to the Bell Wood each year. This was before the path network was improved. Although no further surveys have been carried out it is reasonable to assume that visitor numbers will have increased in response to the improved path network.

The level of usage and public interest in the wood was reflected in the number of responses received during the Scoping exercise (See Scoping Report Appendix ?) The wood is regularly used by walkers and dog walkers. Many of them are resident in the eastern end of the village where they can easily walk to the wood but there is also a smaller, but regular, level of usage by residents from further afield.

Cyclists, especially on mountain bikes, are also regular users of the wood. The cyclists come from all over the Aboyne area and frequently pass through the wood as part of a longer journey. However links from the Bell Wood to other walking and cycling tracks is limited at present.

Horse riders also regularly use the wood, most commonly entering from the eastern end, near to which is a commercial livery stable and the World Horse Welfare horse refuge. Mostly the horse riders avoid the footpaths and use the forest roads and other routes. However there has been a persistent low level of usage of the new footpaths by horses which can cause accelerated wear on the path surfaces, especially in wet weather.

The wood is used for educational purposes and guided walks/events, e.g. bat and moth night, by the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service with local schools, community groups and the general public. However one factor which limits the use of the woodland by educational groups, especially young children, is the absence of public toilets nearby.

As a part of the Developer Contribution agreed with Aberdeenshire Council, Michael Rasmussen Associates have provided a small car park on Old Town Road adjacent to the southern access point to the Bell Wood. This provides space for approximately 5 cars, however the final surfacing and the marking out of the parking spaces has still to be completed.

A further element of the Developer Contribution which is still to be completed is the provision of a foot bridge over the Tarland Burn to connect the Bell Wood to the Low Road.

3 EVALUATION

3.1 Constraints and Opportunities Analysis

Site Constraints Impact

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Soils	Moderate soils limit species choice.	• Native Scots pine is well suited to poorer dry soils. SP in commercial stands also creates good wildlife habitat.
Windthrow	On wet sites windthrow can be limiting factor. Otherwise risk of regular windthrow is low to moderate	• Thin regularly to encourage stable stands which can be harvested under LISS . • Fell and restock stands on wet sites which are likely to become unstable in the near future
Climate Change	Is predicted to bring warmer drier summers and milder winters. Risk of summer drought and new insect infestation.	• Scots pine and Douglas fir are well adapted to dry summers. • Select native species for restocking which are adapted to dry sites • Create and maintain wet areas where possible for wildlife benefit .

Archaeological Impact

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
There are no known sites of Archaeological interest in the Bell Wood	There are known archaeological sites nearby	• Maintain lookout for any signs of archaeological remains during all forestry operations.
Some sites may not yet be recorded	New harvesting sites must be checked before operations commence	• To be identified and recorded as new sites discovered

Visual Impact

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
The Bell Wood is visible from parts of the village and from the Low Road north bank of the River Dee	Clear felling will have noticeable visual impact	• Prepare landscape perspectives of proposed felling. Amend proposals to mitigate visual impact if necessary • Follow guidelines in UK Forestry Standard
	Unsympathetic or large scale clear felling would have noticeable visual impact	• Regenerate where possible using low impact silvicultural systems • Any necessary restructuring felling to follow Forest Design Planning guideline • Avoid concentrations of felled areas in one part of the woodland • Follow guidelines in UK Forestry Standard

Ecological Impact

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Removal of non-native trees from banks of Tarland Burn Felling unstable Norway Spruce in Cpt 5	Will involve clear felling Possible disturbance of otters and squirrels	• Carry out survey for otter holts and resting places • Carry out felling outside of breeding season • Follow guidance in FCS Guidance Note 33 Forest Operations and Red Squirrels in Scottish Forests. • Maintain vigilance for the presence of grey squirrels and take appropriate steps to trap them if they should arrive.
Replacement of non-native trees after felling	Choice of replacement species	• Plan to replace conifers along streamside with open ground, willow and alder.

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Habitat for deadwood invertebrates	Continuity of deadwood	• Retain all standing dead timber consistent with public safety
Wetland Areas	Much of the woodland is naturally well drained or existing drainage is necessary for forest management purposes	• Survey and select suitable areas for reinstatement of bog by blocking existing drains
Open Space	Areas of open space within the woodland are currently limited	• Allow for 10- 20% open space in restock areas
Mature woodland	There are few mature trees present in the Bell Wood	• Retain mature Scots pine and broadleaves scattered through Cpts 1-9

Hydrological Impact

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Forestry activities may impact on water quality especially in the Tarland Burn and River Dee	Requires consideration in all forestry activities including road maintenance	• Follow Forests and Water Guidelines in all operations • Notify SEPA of all operations covered by the Controlled Activities Regulations (2005) • Replacement of dense stands of non-native conifers with mixed broadleaves and open space will encourage the development of natural ground flora providing better buffering against acidification and improved wildlife habitat.

Herbivore Impact

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
There are roe deer present in the wood	Deer numbers are low and are having little visible impact on the growth and survival of tree seedlings.	• Regular culling is not considered necessary • Note any increased browsing impact, should it occur, and assess its importance

Social Impact

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
High levels of recreational visitors	Need to manage access during forestry operations	• Provide adequate warning of proposed operations • Signpost alternative routes where practicable • Erect and maintain adequate signage during period of operations • Provide adequate gates/styles at fence crossings • Co-operate with local access officer where core paths affected
Access for the disabled	Facilities for disabled visitors are inadequate	• Upgrade existing car park to include designated disabled bays and to be disabled accessible • Paths to be graded to abilities • Gates to be made wheelchair/baby buggy accessible • Signs and information to be made accessible to the disabled • Seats/Perches to be provided to assist those who walk with difficulty
Signage	Existing signage is very limited	• make request for route signage from the main road to Council roads department. • Provide threshold signs which give information on path lengths and grading plus interpretation of natural and cultural heritage • Provide Waymark posts to indicate routes
Condition of footpaths	Paths have suffered water damage in the recent past	• Drains will be cleaned as necessary, path surface

		repaired, water bars, board walks provided where necessary
The use of the Bell Wood for educational and interpretive purposes'	The wood is currently used by Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service with local schools, community groups and the general public	• MDL will maintain liaison with the Ranger Service and schools
Use of the Bell Wood by horse riders.	Some sections of paths on soft ground have been damaged	• Routing to separate horse and foot/bicycle traffic is required. • Discussions to be initiated with horse riding interests.
Use of the Bell Wood by mountain bikers	Possible conflict with other users	• Explore funding for creation of dedicated mountain bike track. • This should be sited to avoid conflict with other users.
Linkages to other paths/cycle routes including proposed Deeside Way	Impact on proposed core path network	• MDL will explore possible footpath/cycle links from the Bell Wood to the Deeside Way and other local routes. • A footbridge across the Tarland Burn should be constructed in the near future as part of an agreed package of developer contributions.
Level of provision for car parking	Possible construction of second car park	• Monitor use of existing car park to assess the need for additional parking area. • Re-assess the situation periodically to ensure there is adequate provision.
Shelter and Toilet facilities	There are no nearby toilets which can limit the potential use of the Bell Wood by the disabled and by educational groups	• Make assessment of the level of use and impact of any social problems on comparable sites with existing toilets.

Dog Fouling	There have been regular complaints about dog fouling	• MDL will approach Aberdeenshire Council to request dog litter bins at the entrances to the wood.

4 MANAGEMENT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Management Aims

The overall aim of Mid Deeside Limited's woodland management In the Bell Wood Pinewoods are:

To maintain the diverse structure and wildlife habitat of the woodland

To make provision for informal public recreational use

To maintain the aesthetic and amenity value of the woodland

To grow a sustainable, marketable crop of timber and other forest products

4.2 Management Objectives

4.2.1 Primary Objectives

1. To fulfil all legal and contractual obligations committed to within the plan period
2. To comply with the UKWAS standard in all forestry planning and operations
3. To sustainably manage the timber assets, allowing for future encouragement of natural regeneration to form a more natural habitat.
4. To establish full and managed access for all potential user groups, including those with special needs.
5. To maintain biodiversity and habitats for wildlife, including a minimum of 10% of open space, 10% native broadleaves and 1% retentions.
6. To develop the use of the Bell Wood as a long term, sustainable element in the wider development of the community.
7. To protect the Bell Wood from accidental fires and other unintentional damage

4.2.2 Secondary Objectives :

8. To decrease the use of herbicides and insecticides, consistent with the successful regeneration and maintenance of the woodlands

9. To maintain monitoring systems that will record the establishment of tree regeneration, browsing and the impact of management activities.

5 PRESCRIPTIONS

The prescription are set out by activities with the Objectives set against each one.

5.1 Thinning

Primary Objective 4. To sustainably manage the timber assets, allowing for future encouragement of natural regeneration to form a more natural habitat.

All accessible stands will be selectively thinned. First thinnings will be done as the stands reach 10 m in top height. Further selective thinnings will be carried out at intervals of 5-7 years depending on the yield class and age of the stands.

The thinning intensity will be kept as near as practicable to Marginal Intensity for the first half of the rotation. Thinning intensity will be monitored by measuring sample plots in the stands shortly after thinning has been completed.

For stands which are scheduled for selective felling and natural regeneration, thinning intensity will be increased towards the end of the rotation to encourage crown development and stability of the individual seed trees that will be retained after the seeding felling.

The areas scheduled for thinning in the period 2011 - 2020 are shown on Map 5 and the full thinning schedule is included in Appendix 2.

5.2 Felling

Primary Objective 4. To sustainably manage the timber assets, allowing for future encouragement of natural regeneration to form a more natural habitat.

Felling Programme

As has been described in Section 2.11.2 the age class distribution of the woods is not evenly distributed, much of the planting having been completed between 1959 and 1960. If felling and regeneration were to be scheduled at or near to the time of maximum Mean Annual Increment (MAI), this would result in significant large adjacent areas being felled in a short time scale. The problem of the irregular distribution of age classes would also persist into the future for a further rotation.

In order to comply with the UK Forestry Standard SN4 and UKWAS Certification Standard Section 3, the programme of felling and restocking has been adjusted to spread the operations over time and location. Map 6 shows the adjusted programme of felling and restocking over the period from 2011 to 2030.

Felling Systems

Clear felling will be utilised where stands are liable to damage by windthrow or wind-snap if retained for an extended period or where ground conditions make harvesting difficult, or economies of scale make it desirable to complete harvesting in one operation. Clear felling

will also be used where it is desired to change species in the next rotation, e.g. exotic conifer to broadleaved or mixed native woodland or to create open space where trees are currently growing.

In all other circumstances, felling will be carried out using a form of Shelterwood System.

5.3 Restocking

Primary Objective 4. To sustainably manage the timber assets, allowing for future encouragement of natural regeneration to form a more natural habitat.

After Selective Felling :
The preferred system for restocking stands felled using the shelterwood system will be by natural regeneration. In these stands the retained trees are species suited to the site conditions and there is no particular requirement to change the species composition of the stand. Where natural regeneration fails to provide adequate stocking within a reasonable time scale, gap filling by planting will be carried out. Gap planting will follow the same practices as set out for replanting below.

However regeneration of undesired species from adjacent stands is always probable and young tickets of regeneration will be weeded to arrive at the desired balance of species in each stand.

After Clear Felling :
Clear felling systems will be employed where the stability of the stands is doubtful or it is desired to effect a complete change of the species grown.

Standard practice at present is to heap and burn all brushwood in the winter after felling. This provides a clear site for replanting and weeding operations which allows the work to proceed more efficiently and also reduces the risk to workers on the site, particularly when working with knapsack sprayers. Burning brushwood also removes the potential harbour for rabbits and allows the game keeping staff to keep the population of browsing animals down to acceptable levels on restock sites . This in turn makes the policy of not fencing any restock sites viable.

The effectiveness and cost implication of baling or chipping brushwood for biofuels is being investigated. If it is assessed as a viable alternative, the practice of burning will be discontinued.

Replanting in commercial stands will be carried out at a stocking density of 2750 stems per ha for Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and larch. Scots pine will be replanted at a density of 3000 stems per ha.

Replanting with native broadleaves will use small seeded species such as birch, rowan and gean with alder and willow on wet sites. This will avoid creating favourable habitat for grey squirrels.

A summary of the felling and restocking schedule is shown in Table 7. Maps showing the areas for felling, thinning and restocking are included in the Maps section.

Table 7
Schedule of Felling and Restocking

	Period		Crop to be felled			Species to be restocked		
Cpt No	**2011-2015**	**2016-2020**	**Species**	**P Year**	**Area**	**Planting**	**Natural Regeneration**	**Other Land**
1b	Selective Fell		NS/SP	1959	3.77		MC	
2a	Selective Fell		NS/SP	1959	3.66		MC	
5a	Clear Fell		NS	1959	4.80	NS/NBL		
9d	Clear Fell		NS	1959	1.89	NBL		

The full schedule of felling thinning and restocking is contained in Appendix 2

Table 8 Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling period*	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries**	Timing of Restocking	Changes to species	Changes to road lines	Designed open space ***
FC Approval normally not required	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period. Where separation or other constraints are met	1.0 ha or 10% of coupe area – whichever is less	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling			Location of temporary open space eg deer glades if still within overall Open Space design Increase by 0.5 ha or 5% of area - whichever is less
Approval by exchange of letters and map		1.0 ha to 5 ha or 10% of coupe area – whichever is less		Change within species group eg evergreen conifers or broadleaves	Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of > 60m in either direction from centre line of road	Increase of 0.5 ha to 2 ha or 10% - whichever is less Any reduction in open space
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	• Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period • Advance felling into current or 2nd 5 year period	> 5 ha or 10% of coupe area	Over 2 planting seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species group	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 2 ha or 10% Any reduction in open space in sensitive areas Colonisation of open areas agreed as critical

Note

*Felling sequence will not compromise UKFS eg. adjacency. At mid term review detail of felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS

** Where windblow occurs, FCS will be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on clearance of any standing trees

*** Tolerances subject to an overriding maximum of 20% open ground

Protection of restocked sites:
Planted broadleaved trees will be protected with individual tree shelters. It is considered that the deer population is sufficiently low to allow natural regeneration and planted conifers to become established in a reasonable timescale.

Weeding and beating up will be carried out as necessary until the trees are established.

Experience has shown that spraying against pine weevil is always necessary on restock sites after clear felling. Only approved insecticides will be applied. Drench guns applying a metered dosage to each plant will be the default method of application. Knapsack sprayers may be used when necessary.

Weeding by hand cutting is the preferred option. However in some circumstances on more fertile sites this does not provide adequate control. Herbicide applications of glyphosate will be used where it is judged necessary.

5.4 Wildlife Habitat

Primary Objective 5. To maintain biodiversity and habitats for wildlife, including a minimum of 10% of open space, 10% native broadleaves and 1% retentions.

Natural Reserves
Some areas of mature native broadleaved trees have been set aside as a Natural Reserve and are managed principally for biodiversity. These are:

Cpt No	Area (ha)	Habitat Type
4h	0.46	birch/alder/open ground
5d	2.17	birch/alder/open ground
13	2.09	open birch woodland on wet ground
Total Area	**4.72**	

Open Space
Open space is important for biodiversity, including provision of breeding and feeding habitat for insects such as butterflies and dragonflies. Glades within birch woodland in Cpt 13 will be maintained for ground flora and associated fauna, e.g. violets (larval food-plant) and bugle (nectar plant) used by small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies.

Existing areas of open space in Cpt 5d will be retained. A minimum of 10% open space will be ensured by leaving some unplanted areas after clear felling. These will be in a mixture of a few larger areas, and a network of smaller open glades especially around areas of wet land.

Deadwood
Standing and fallen dead timber is an important habitat for invertebrates and the birds and animals that prey on them. In order to maintain deadwood habitat all standing and fallen dead trees will be retained. The only exceptions will be standing trees which are close to roads and footpaths and may be hazardous to the visiting public. These will be individually inspected and felled if necessary in the interest of safety.

Wetland Areas
Wetland areas have been reduced historically through drainage and are essential for freshwater invertebrates, amphibians and other wildlife.

The wet area in Cpt 9d will be retained and all existing drains will be blocked once the current stand of spruce has been felled. Replanting will be willow and alder creating a mosaic of broadleaves and open space.

The area of open ground in Cpt 5d will be retained as wetland open space. The existing drain running though Cpt 13 will be diverted into the open space in Cpt 5d to ensure the ground remains wet in all seasons.

Any other opportunities to create small patches of wet ground, for example after felling or windblow clearance will be explored on a case by case basis.

Mature Trees
Mature trees provide food and shelter (including roosting and nesting sites) for a host of organisms, such as lower plants, fungi, invertebrates, mammals and birds. Erection of bird nest boxes to suit different species and bat roost boxes could supplement the availability of natural sites

There are a small number of mature Scots pine and broadleaves scattered through Cpts 1 – 9 with a few more along the boundaries of Cpts 11 and 12. All standing mature trees will be retained. During thinning operations any encroaching planted trees will be selectively removed to ensure the mature trees have adequate space.

Protection of Watercourses
All felling and restocking operations will follow the prescriptions contained in the current edition of the Forest and Water Guidelines. In particular care will be taken to prevent any silt, fuel oils, chemicals or other contaminants entering the Tarland Burn and the River Dee. Main harvesting extraction routes will be selected to avoid areas of wet ground and timber loading points will be sited well away from the banks of the river or its tributaries. Trees will not be allowed to fall into the river and trees being harvested on steep river banks will be winched uphill away from the river. Conifer brushwood will not be left on ground immediately adjacent to the main watercourses.

5.5 Recreation and Visitor Management

Primary Objective 4. To establish full and managed access for all potential user groups, including those with special needs.

As pointed out in Section 2.14 the Bell Wood has a high level of recreational users with something in excess of 20,000 individual visits each year. The path network is adequate in extent to cope with this level of usage. However some ongoing repair and maintenance will be required to keep the network in good condition and some small extensions could be incorporated.

5.5.1 Signage

A threshold information board will be erected at each of the two main entrance points to the wood giving information on the length of the path network and the suitability of the various sections for users with disabilities. The paths will be graded to indicate their length and level of difficulty. Threshold boards will also include interpretation of natural and cultural heritage. Waymark posts will be installed at various junctions to guide users along their chosen routes. All signs will be accessible to users with disabilities.

MDL will request that the Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department erect visitor information brown coloured signs to guide new users from the main Deeside Road to the car park and entrance to the wood.

5.5.2 Access for the disabled

MDL will use its best influence to ensure the existing car park is completed with designated disabled bays and be disabled accessible.

All existing gates will be made wheelchair/baby buggy accessible where they are not already so and any new gates that might be erected in the future will be constructed to the same standard.

Seats/Perches will be provided at suitable intervals to assist those who walk with difficulty.

5.5.3 Linkages to other paths/cycle routes

MDL will use its best influence to ensure that the footbridge across the Tarland Burn is constructed in the near future as part of the agreed package of developer contributions. Once the bridge is constructed a new short section of path will be necessary to link the bridge with the existing path network.

Once the route of the Deeside Way extension has been determined MDL will explore possible footpath/cycle links from the Bell Wood to the Deeside Way and other local routes.

5.5.4 Provision for cyclists and horse riders

MDL will explore possible sources of funding for the creation of a dedicated mountain bike track. This should be designed to provide a challenging downhill route for users of mixed

abilities and use the existing forest road network to enable riders to loop round to the top of the dedicated bike route for successive runs.

This track will have to be sited to avoid conflict with other users and to avoid areas of value for wildlife and biodiversity.

MDL will initiate discussion with horse riders who regularly use the Bell Wood to agree riding routes which avoid damage to the footpaths and avoid conflict with walkers and cyclists

5.5.5 Dog fouling

MDL will approach Aberdeenshire Council to request dog litter bins at the entrances to the wood

5.5.6 Provision of additional visitor facilities

MDL will monitor the use of the existing car park to assess whether there is any need for additional parking space at present. If not, the situation will be re-assessed periodically to ensure there is adequate provision. There is not sufficient space available to extend the existing car park, so the creation of a second car park would be necessary. Planning consent has already been obtained for the construction of a second car park so that work could proceed if the facility is proved necessary.

There are no toilet facilities in, or near, to the Bell Wood. This limits the use of the woodland by educational groups, especially young children, and by people with disabilities. MDL will make an assessment of the level of use and impact of any social problems on comparable sites with existing toilets. Depending on the outcome of the assessment MDL will consider whether the provision of a toilet is desirable and carry out a feasibility study into a suitable location and sources of funding.

A small open sided shelter building would be advantageous for disabled users who need to rest part way through their excursion. This would allow protection from the wind and perhaps from a short rain shower. This would ideally be located near the far end of the all abilities trail.

5.5.7 Safeguarding the public during forestry operations

MDL will maintain close liaison with the Aberdeenshire Council Access Officer on all forestry operations that might affect path users and arrange for temporary diversions if necessary while any hazardous operations are taking place. Adequate signage will be put in place and maintain during the period of such operations.

5.6 Fire and Chemical Spillage Protection :

Primary Objective 7. To protect the Bell Wood from accidental fires and other unintentional damage

5.6.1 Fire Protection

A detailed contingency plan developed for the site has been agreed with the Fire Services and neighbours. This will be fully implemented and reviewed annually. Full liaison will be maintained with the South Grampian Forest Fire Protection Group. A copy of the plan is available for inspection at the MDL offices.

5.6.2 The use of pesticides and other chemicals.

In accordance with UKWAS standard 5.2.3. it is the policy of MDL to utilise strategies that will keep the use of synthetic chemicals to a minimum and reduce the usage of such chemicals where it is practicable and economic to do so.

General Guidance

Weed Control :

Hand weeding by cutting will be the default option for weed control in young plantation and regeneration areas. Chemical control will be considered in the following circumstances.

- Where dense broom and whins would require repeated cutting over several years, the use of Timbrel herbicide may be the only economic option.
- Where trees are protected by individual tree shelters and the surrounding vegetation is vigorous grasses and herbs, cutting cannot prevent moisture stress in the young trees. Application of Roundup will be considered.
- The control of Rhododendron can only be achieved with the use of herbicides and application of Roundup on the cut stumps or on young re-growth is the preferred option

Fungicides :

There will be no routine application of urea or any other approved fungicide to cut stumps during tree harvesting operations. The impact on the subsequent rotations of Heterobascidion annosum is within acceptable limits where Scots pine is restocked on the type of acid soils commonly found in the Bell Wood. Application of Urea will only be considered where:

- Soil Ph is higher than normal and the standing crop shows signs of but rot and discolouration caused by fungal infection.
- Where other circumstances make it appropriate to use vulnerable species such as Norway Spruce as part of the restocking programme.

Insecticides :

In normal circumstances insecticide use will be restricted to the application of an approved chemical to control pine weevil on restock sites. The method used will be by application of the insecticide to the individual plants using a drench gun or similar applicator. The use of pre-treated planting stock will be avoided.

Rabbit control :

The preferred methods for rabbit control are shooting, including lamping and ferreting. The use of chemicals for gassing rabbit burrows will not be undertaken.

Unforeseen Circumstances

In the event of any unforeseen occurrence, for example an outbreak of foot and mouth disease, the necessary use of any synthetic chemical will be considered taking into account existing guidelines and any emergency guidelines that may be issued by relevant authorities at the time. The policy will be to consider alternative strategies that might be applied and to limit the use of any synthetic chemicals to the practicable minimum.

Policy Review

The policy on the use of chemicals will be reviewed annually following the guidelines in the Practice Guide *Reducing Pesticide use in Forestry* published by the Forestry Commission and following the core decision key attached to this addendum. Strategies to reduce the use of chemicals will include:

- Changes in silvicultural practice
- The use of biological controls
- The use of alternative techniques
- The use of chemicals with lower biological impact
- The use of non-residual chemicals

6 PLAN REVIEW

This plan will be reviewed by 31 December 2020.

Appendix 1

Compartment Schedule

Bell Wood Compartment Schedule

Cpt	Sub	HECTARES	P Year	Species
1				
	a	0.94	1959	SP
	b	3.77	1959	NS/SP
		4.71		
2				
	a	3.66	1959	NS/SP
	b	5.10	1959	SP/EL
		8.76		
3				
	a	4.98	1960	NS/SS/LP/SP
	b	0.60	1995	NBL
	c	0.11	1960	EL
	d	0.29	1960	Syc
	e	0.64	1960	SP
	f	1.01	1960	DF
	g	0.45	1960	DF
	h	0.38	1960	SP
	j	1.65	1960	SP
	k	0.32	1960	DF/SP
		10.42		
4				
	a	1.54	1960	SP
	b	0.59	1960	NS
	c	0.41	1960	SP/EL
	d	1.64	1960	DF
	e	1.02	1960	NS
	f	4.27	1960	NS/LP/SP/SS
	g	1.21	1960	NS
	h	0.46	2007	Ald/Bi/SS
		11.14		
5				
	a	4.80	1959	NS
	b	1.54	1959	LP/NS/SP
	c	2.60	1959	SP

Cpt	Sub	HECTARES	P Year	Species
	d	2.17		OG
		11.11		
6				
	a	4.49	1960	SP
	b	0.65	1960	DF/SP
	c	0.93	1960	NS/LP/SS/SP
	d	0.35	1960	SP
		6.43		
7				
	a	2.45	1960	SP
	b	0.99	1960	NS/SS/LP/SP
	c	0.84	1960	DF
	d	2.25	1960	NS/LP/SP/SS
	e	5.17	1960	SP
		11.70		
8				
	a	8.49	1959	SP
	b	0.98	1959	DF
	c	1.02	1959	NS
		10.50		
9				
	a	3.21	1959	SP
	a	0.80	1959	SP
	b	2.06	1959	DF
	c	1.39	1959	NS/LP/JL/SP
	c	1.67	1959	NS/LP/JL/SP
	d	0.89	1959	NS/LP/JL/SP
	e	0.07	1995	Bi/Ald
	f	0.28	1959	NS
	g	0.31	1959	Syc
		10.68		
10				
		15.28	1940	SP
		15.28		
11				
		4.76	1988	DF/SS

Cpt	Sub	HECTARES	P Year	Species
		4.76		
12				
		1.77	1949	Bi/Ash
		1.77		
13				
		2.09	1949	Bi/Ald
		2.09		
		109.35		

Appendix 2

Production Forecast

Bell Wood Forest Plan

Production Forecast 2011 - 2020

Coupe Data						Stand Data						Restructuring Areas by Successor Crop Types (ha)						
	Period 1		Period 2															
Coupe Reference	Fell/thin Period	Intervention Type	Fell/thin Period	Intervention Type	Planned Felling Year	Species	Planting Year	General Yield Class	WHC	Thinned Before	Net Area (ha)	Sitka Spruce	Other conifer	Mixed Broadleaves	Native Broadleaves	Caledonian Scots Pine	Natural Regeneration	Other Land
1a	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1959			y	0.94							
1b	2011-2015	LISS Fell			2011	NS	1959			y	3.77						3.77	
2a	2011-2015	LISS Fell			2011	NS	1959			y	3.66						3.66	
2b	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1959			y	5.10							
3a	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1960			y	4.98							
3b			2016 - 2020	Thin		MBL	1995			n	0.60							
3c	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		EL	1960			y	0.11							
3d	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MBL	1960			y	0.29							
3e	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	0.64							
3f	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		DF	1960			y	1.01							
3g	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		DF	1960			y	0.45							
3h	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	0.38							
3j	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	1.65							
3k	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1960			y	0.32							
4a	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	1.54							
4b	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		NS	1960			y	0.59							
4c	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	0.41							
4d	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		DF	1960			y	1.64							
4e	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		NS	1960			y	1.02							
4f	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1960			y	4.27							
4g	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		NS	1960			y	1.21							
5a	2011-2015	Fell			2011	NS	1959			y	4.80		4.80					
5b	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1959			y	1.54							
5c	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1959			y	2.60							
6a	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	4.49							
6b	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1960			y	0.65							
6c	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1960			y	0.93							
6d	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	0.35							
7a	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	2.45							
7b	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1960			y	0.99							
7c	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		DF	1960			y	0.84							
7d	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1960			y	2.25							
7e	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1960			y	5.17							

8a	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1959	y	8.49			
8b	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		DF	1959	y	0.98			
8c	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		NS	1959	y	1.02			
9a	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		SP	1959	y	3.99			
9b	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		DF	1959	y	2.06			
9c	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1959	y	3.06			
9d	2011-2015	Fell			2011	NS	1959	y	1.89	1.89		
9e			2016 - 2020	Thin		MBL	1995	y	0.06			
9f	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		NS	1959	y	0.28			
9g	2011-2015	Thin	2016 - 2020	Thin		MBL	1959	y	0.37			
11			2016 - 2020	Thin		MC	1988	y	4.76			
12			2016 - 2020	Thin		MBL	1949	y	1.77			

Appendix 3

Scoping Report

Mid Deeside Limited

Bell Wood and Lady Wood

Forest Plan

Scoping Report

Mid Deeside Ltd
Victory Hall, Ballater Road, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5HY

Report Prepared by
The Ross Partnership, Bearfold, Ordie, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5LS
E-Mail : info@ross-partnership.co.uk

Mid Deeside Limited
Bell Wood and Lady Wood
Forest Plan Scoping Process

1. Introduction

1.1 Name of Property

This scoping report is concerned with the Bell Wood and the Lady Wood, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire

1.2 SRDP Case Number

4164478

1.3 Main Location Code

038/0018

1.4 Forest Plan Area

The Forest Plan will cover an area of 112.8 ha. Not all of this area is established woodland. A small proportion is open ground within the woodland.

1.5 Arrangements for the Scoping Process

Two scoping meetings were held in June & July 2010. A drop-in session for members of the general public was held at the Aboyne Accademy & Community Centre in the village of Aboyne on Friday 25th June from 14:00 to 21:30 and on Saturday 26th June from 10am to 3pm. Display boards showed the maps of the outline proposals along with explanatory text. Members of the Aboyne Community Woods association and the Ross Partnership were present to answer questions and take responses.

Adverts were placed in the Public Notices section Deeside Piper announcing the drop-in session two weeks before the event. Press releases were also issued and The Deeside Piper ran a small article publicising the meeting during the two weeks before the date. Several posters were placed on various notice boards around the village for two weeks before the event.

A formal meeting for statutory bodies and representatives of organisations was held in the Victory Hall on Friday 2nd July. This meeting was chaired by Dan Cadle of Forestry Commission Scotland. Written invitations to the meeting were issued three weeks beforehand. The minutes of this meeting are included in Appendix 2.

Along with the written invitation, participants were sent maps of:

- Access and recreation considerations
- Constraints, including wildlife sensitive areas
- Concept map

Following the Scoping Meetings all invitees, including those who were unable to attend, were given until the 28th July to submit written comments.

2. Participants

2.1 Attendees at Formal Meeting

Name	Organisation	Address
Eileen Baird	Director, Mid Deeside Limited	Mid Deeside Limited Victory Hall Ballater Road Aboyne Aberdeenshire AB34 5HY
Frank Sheridan	Contracts Manager, Mid Deeside Limited	Mid Deeside Limited Victory Hall Ballater Road Aboyne Aberdeenshire AB34 5HY
Irvine Ross	Forestry Consultant to MDL	The Ross Partnership Bearfold Ordie Aboyne AB34 5LS Tel 013398 81651
Dan Cadle	Forestry Commission Scotland	Grampian Conservancy Ordiquhill Portsoy Road HUNTLY Aberdeenshire AB54 4SJ Tel: 01466 794542
Jo Sinclair	Secretary, Mid Deeside Community Council	38 Barclay Park Aboyne AB34 5JF
Ruth Sim	Chair of Deeside Access Panel	4 Blacksmiths Cottages Birkhall Ballater AB35 5ST
Mary McLeod	Environmental Planner Aberdeenshire Council	Viewmount Arduthie Road Stonehaven AB3 2DQ Tel : 01569 768293

2.2 Correspondents

Written responses were received from the following

Name	Organisation	Address	Correspondence References
Julia Galley	Area Officer Aberdeenshire South Scottish Natural Heritage	Inverdee House Baxter Street, Torry Aberdeen, AB11 9QA	1

Ian Francis	RSPB	10 Albyn Terrace Aberdeen AB10 1YP	2
Andrea Dilley	SEPA	142 Sinclair Road Torry Aberdeen AB11 9PR	3
Laura Barker		laurajobarker@gmail.com]	4
Hollie Walker	North East Scotland Project Officer, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels	Inverdee House Baxter Street, Torry Aberdeen, AB11 9QA	5
Cllr Marcus Humphrey	Aberdeenshire Council		6
Miora Greig	Aberdeenshire Council Archaeologist	Planning & Environmental Services Aberdeenshire Council Woodhill House Westburn Road Aberdeen AB16 5GB	7

Copies of the letters received are contained in Appendix 3

2.3 Drop-in Consultation Session

A number of comments were received in verbal or short note form at the Drop-in Consultation Sessions These are summarised in Appendix 1

3. Key Issues

3.1 General

In general terms the Bell Wood and the Lady Wood are considered important for amenity and recreation. The Lady Wood form an important backdrop to the western entrance to the village. The path through the lady Wood is a much used route to the Community Centre and to the Aboyne Academy and Primary Schools. The wood is also used for educational purposes by the pupils of both schools. The Bell Wood is popular for a range of recreational activities, particularly for residents in the east end of the village

As the conifer plantations in the Bell Wood lie immediately adjacent to the Tarland Burn, a tributary of the River Dee, which is designated as an SAC, the matter of water quality was also important to consultees. Issues were raised concerning access, integration with forestry operations and disturbance to wildlife.

3.2 Key Issues

The key features highlighted during scoping were

- Maintenance and improvement of recreation facilities
- Maintenance of landscape and visual amenity

- Wildlife and biodiversity

A list of all the issues that were identified from the two Scoping Meetings and written responses are presented in the table below together with the measures that could be taken to address them.

3.3 Bell Wood

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
Recreation			
• Access for the disabled	Impact on recreation management	The car park should have designated disabled bays and be disabled accessible Paths should be graded to abilities Gates should be wheelchair/baby buggy accessible Signs and information should be accessible to the disabled Seats/Perches should be provided to assist those who walk with difficulty	Work on the present car park is not yet complete. The car park is not on ground owned by MDL and cannot be extended. The car park was provided as part of an agreed package of developer contributions. Some concern was expressed that these might become the target for vandalism.
• Signage		Consider making request for route signage from the main road by Council roads department. Threshold signs need to be provided which give information on path lengths and grading Waymark posts are required to indicate routes	several comments were made that the Bell Wood is difficult to find for first time visitors Planning approval will be required.

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
• Paths have suffered water damage in the recent past		Drains should be cleaned as necessary, path surface repaired, water bars, board walks provided where necessary	Damage has already been surveyed
• Use of the Bell Wood by horse riders. Some sections of paths on soft ground have been damaged	impact on path maintenance programme	Routing to separate horse and foot/bicycle traffic is required. Discussions to be initiated with regular horse users.	
• Use of the Bell Wood by mountain bikers		Consider creation of dedicated mountain bike track. This should be sited to avoid conflict with other users.	This facility was suggested by several respondents. Liability for injury may be a problem. Forres Community Woodland Trust have mountain bike trails and could provide advice. Advice on trail design available through Forestry Commission. Must be reconciled with the desire to have areas of woodland with lower disturbance for the benefit of wildlife.
• Provision for access during forestry operations	Impact on all forestry operations	Provide adequate warning of proposed operations. Erect and maintain adequate signage during period of operations Co-operate with local access officer where core paths affected. Signpost alternative routes where practicable	

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
• Proposed Deeside Way • Linkages to other paths/cycle routes	Impact on proposed core path network	MDL will explore possible footpath/cycle links from the Bell Wood to the Deeside Way and other local routes. A footbridge across the Tarland Burn should be constructed in the near future as part of an agreed package of developer contributions.	The final route of the Deeside Way has yet to be decided. This will depend on neighbour co-operation
• Additional Visitor Facilities. Provision of second car park		Monitor use of existing car park to assess the need for additional parking area. Re-assess the situation periodically to ensure there is adequate provision.	The majority of respondents were strongly opposed to this proposal. Planning approval has been obtained
• Additional Visitor Facilities. Provision of composting toilet		Make assessment of the level of use and impact of any social problems on comparable sites with existing toilets. MDL will make efforts to resolve differences of opinion.	The majority of respondents were strongly opposed to this proposal. Respondents with an interest in disabled access or education were in favour. Planning approval has been obtained.
• Additional Visitor Facilities. Provision of a shelter		MDL will explore possible designs/ construction costs.	Little opinion either way on this matter from respondents
• Dog Fouling		MDL will approach Aberdeenshire Council to request dog litter bins at the entrances to the wood	

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
Wildlife/Biodiversity			
• Proposals for felling of exotics and replacement by native trees is welcomed because of proximity to Tarland Burn and River Dee	Impact on harvesting plan	Plan for the removal of exotic conifers on the banks of the Tarland Burn	Make assessment of impact on River Dee SAC
• Replacement of non-native trees after felling	impact on restocking plan	Plan to replace with mixed native broadleaves according to site type. Favour the use of small seeded native broadleaves which do not provide food for grey squirrels.	Phase 1 habitat survey to guide replacement species choice
• Red Squirrels	Impact on harvesting/restocking plans	Retain mature mixed species conifer forest to provide variety of food and habitat. Avoid extensive clear fells. Follow guidance in FCS Guidance Note 33 Forest Operations and Red Squirrels in Scottish Forests. Maintain vigilance for the presence of grey squirrels and take appropriate steps to trap them if they should arrive.	Red squirrels are known to breed in the Bell Wood and population monitoring in is ongoing.
• Otters	Impact on harvesting/restocking plans	Commission a survey to detect whether holts or resting couches are present in the Bell Wood. Consult SNH if any are found.	Otters are known to frequent the Tarland Burn.

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
• Badgers	Impact on harvesting/restocking plans	Maintain vigilance for the presence of badgers	There are no known badger setts in the Bell Wood
• Bats	Impact on harvesting/restocking plans	Avoid disturbance to any likely bat roosts in the summer months.	There is a possibility that bats will use some of the small number old trees scattered through the Bell Wood for summer roosts
Water			
• Forestry activities may impact on water quality especially in the River Dee	Impact on harvesting/restocking plans	Pollution prevention will be integral to plan. Follow Forests and Water Guidelines in all operations	Update harvesting constraints map with latest data on all water supplies.
• Forest Road construction	impact on timber harvesting and recreation	Follow Forests and Water Guidelines and CAR regulation in all maintenance operations	It is considered unlikely that there will be any necessity to construct significant lengths of new forestry roads as the woodlands already have adequate access.
Deer Management			
• Low numbers of roe deer present	Impact on Wildlife Management Plan	Note any increased browsing impact, should it occur, and assess its importance	Deer numbers are low and are having little visible impact on the growth and survival of tree seedlings.
Archaeology			
• There are no known sites of Archaeological interest in the Bell Wood	Impact on all forestry activities	Maintain lookout for any signs of archaeological remains during all forestry operations.	
Site Designations			
• Sites of Interest to Natural Science	Impact on all forestry activities	MDL will follow up and assess the accuracy and relevance of the SINS designations and incorporate in forestry planning	Data from NESBREC has already been obtained.

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
• LBAP Lists	Impact on all forestry activities	MDL will follow up and assess the accuracy and relevance of the LBAP lists and incorporate in forestry planning.	
Landscape			
• Visual impact of tree harvesting on the landscape	Impact on harvesting plan	Continue policy of using continuous cover harvesting systems where appropriate. Any necessary clear felling should be restricted to small/moderate sized coupes. A programme of regular selective thinning will be implemented to support the continuous cover objective.	Giver the location, topography and recreational use of the Bell Wood, the internal landscape is of more importance than its setting in the wider countryside.

3.4 Lady Wood

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
Recreation			
• Access for the disabled	Impact on recreation management	MDL will investigate the cost and possible sources of funding to upgrade the path to be wheelchair accessible Signs and information should be accessible to the disabled Seats/Perches should be provided to assist those who walk with difficulty	Some concern was expressed that these might become the target for vandalism.
• Path Maintenance		A programme of regular trimming of path side vegetation should be implemented to keep the path passable for baby buggies and for companions walking with disabled users.	
• Proposed Deeside Way • Linkages to other paths/cycle routes	Impact on proposed core path network	MDL will explore possible footpath/cycle links from the Lady Wood to the Deeside Way and other local routes.	The final route of the Deeside Way has yet to be decided. This will depend on neighbour co-operation
• Dog Fouling		MDL will approach Aberdeenshire Council to request additional dog litter bins at the entrances to the wood	
Education			
• The use of the wood for educational purposes	Impact on all forestry operations	MDL will maintain liaison with the schools and with the Aberdeenshire Council Countryside Ranger Service	The wood is currently used by both schools for environmental education.

Main Issues	Impact on Plannning/Management	Measures to be Taken	Notes
Wildlife/Biodiversity			
• Beech regeneration	Impact on silvicultural operations	Remove beech seedlings to prevent shading of ground vegetation. Replant any gaps with oak seedlings of local provenance	
• Wildlife habitat		Retain mature trees for as long as is consistent with public safety	Trees beside footpaths and boundaries should be inspected at regular intervals
• Garden escapes		maintain watch for any invasive species such as Japanese knotweed or rhododendron.	

Appendix 1
Written and Verbal Responses from Public Meeting
Friday & Saturday 25 & 26 June

Bell Wood and Lady Wood Public Scoping : Open Meetings 25 & 26th June 2010
Location: Foyer, Aboyne Academy and Community Centre and . (Wheelchair Accessible)
Format: Drop-in session
Publicity: Press; posters around Aboyne
On Display: Proposals/Issues maps)

13 response sheets were completed and handed in on the days
27 post-it notes were left on the Bell Wood Map by 11 individuals
13 post-it notes were left on the Lady Wood map by 12 individuals

Bell Wood

COMMENT	No of responses	SOURCE
Woodland Management		
Minimal Intervention please (leave as it is)	6	1
In favour of small felling coupes	3	1
Should fell conifers along Tarland Burn and replace with native broadleaved trees	4	1
Should **NOT** fell conifers along Tarland Burn and replace with native broadleaved trees	5	1
Should retain good wildlife habitat regardless of whether of native or exotic tree species	10	1
		1
Should create more clearings in the wood for wildlife benefit	1	1
more clearings and seats along Tarland Burn	1	1
Should **NOT** create more clearings in the wood	7	1
Recreation		
In favour of more facilities at Bell Wood		
a shelter	1	1
Mountain bike track	8	1&2
composting toilet	3	1&2
dog bins	1	2
horse track	2	2
Car park needs designated disabled bays and to be disabled accessible	1	
Car park needs to be enlarged	1	2
Against more facilities at Bell Wood	11	1&2
		1
In favour of better signage/interpretation (disabled accessible)	7	1&2
Against better signage		
Grade routes to abilities	1	1
Path drainage needs improvement	2	1
paths should link to Deeside Way and other paths/cycle routes	4	1,2&3
Other comments		
This is a wood not a theme park	1	1
I would not feel safe walking alone in the woods. Would like ranger guided walks	1	1
It is good that the community takes responsibility	1	1
more bird boxes please	1	1
more squirrel boxes please	1	1
keep some areas wilder and more difficult to access	1	2

keep as natural looking and undeveloped as possible	1	2
publicise to encourage use by wider range of folk	1	2
opportunities for volunteers should be developed	1	2
want programme of activities/events	1	2
forest art, sculpture etc.	1	2
It's fine just as it is	1	2
It is difficult to find for the first time, no signs from the main road	1	3
We never go there (residents in west end of Aboyne)	5	3

Lady Wood

COMMENT	No of responses	SOURCE
Woodland Management		
In favour of removing beech seedlings	4	1,2&3
Against removing beech seedlings	3	1
remove garden escapes	1	1
keep natural look of the woods	2	2
Recreation		
In favour of resting places for the disabled	5	1
Against resting places for disabled people	3	1
make paths wheelchair accessible	2	2
more dog waste bins	2	2
trim trees and bushes growing over existing pathway (difficult for buggies)	1	2
provide links to Deeside Way and other local paths	1	2
Other comments		
create outdoor classroom for school use	1	2
provide aerial slide, fire tower, tree top walk way	1	2
provide skate park	25	2
valuable for school cross country running	1	3
ask local residents to adopt parts of the pathway	1	2
paths and signage to be accessible for disabled users	1	2

Sources	Code
Anonymous response sheets	1
Anonymous Post-it notes	2
Verbal comments	3

Appendix 2
Notes from Scoping Meeting
Friday 3 July

MID DEESIDE LIMITED
BELL WOOD AND LADY WOOD FOREST PLAN SCOPING METING - 2nd July 2010

4. Present

Dan Cadle	Woodland Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland
Ruth Sim	Chair of Deeside Access Panel
Irvine Ross	Forestry Consultant, Ross Partnership
Frank Sheridan	Contracts Manager, Mid Deeside Limited
Jo Sinclair	Secretary, Mid Deeside Community Council
Eileen Baird	Director, Mid Deeside Limited
Mary McLeod	Environment Planner, Aberdeenshire Council

Apologies:

Holly Walker	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels
Julia Grey	Area Officer, Scottish Natural Heritage
Moira Grieg	Archaeologist, Aberdeenshire Council
Ian Francis	Area Manager, RSPB
Cllr Marcus Humphrey	Aberdeenshire Council
Andrea Dilley	SEPA

5. Introduction

Dan Cadle (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the background to the planning process developed by the Forestry Commission. All the participants introduced themselves.

Dan explained that this meeting is part of the consultation process required by the Forestry Commission in the preparation of a Forest Plan. The Forest Plan should describe how the woodland will be managed over the next 20 years with detailed plans for the first 10 years and outline indications for the second 10 years. All necessary felling for the first 10 years will be licensed by the Forestry Commission on completion of Forest Plan. The first step is the scoping process with the public open session on 26th June and the present formal meeting with the Forestry Commission. After the scoping report has been circulated for comment, MDL will proceed with writing the Forest Plan taking into account the responses to the proposals. After the Forestry Commission have given initial approval of the plan it will go on the public register for 4 weeks. During this time any agency or member of the public can submit comments on the plan. After any necessary amendments have been to accommodate relevant comments, approval will then be given to carry out the work.

After 10 years there will be a review of how the plan is working. The plan will include a tolerance table to indicate how large a deviation from the plan will require a formal amendment agreed with the FC.

6. Bell Wood

It is a 110 hectare woodland mostly planted in 1960 by Glen Tanar Estate. An older stand of Scots Pine was planted in by the previous owners Aboyne Castle Estate. It provides good habitat for red squirrels because of the varied tree species. More diversity is developing now and some open space has been created by the removal of a stand of after Sitka sprice. Lodge Pole Pine is scattered throughout the wood and may need to be removed if disease becomes a problem. The management policy to date has been to provide continuous cover. Some felling and restocking is also done.

6.1 Recreation

there is a network of footpaths which has been well received – these are wheelchair standard on the terrace for 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres for pedestrians. Flooding has been a localised issue with washout on steep gradients. Almost all the apths in the Bell Wood are in the core path scheme. Access points and links to wider paths such as the Deeside way are still being debated. The Old Railway line and the Old Deeside Road which goes to the Council sheds are potential routes. It was agreed that it was important to link routes wherever possible.

Disabled access:
Ruth Sim recommended that access provision for the disabled should follow the guidelines in the BT Countryside Guide. It was agreed that MDL will order a copy. There should be no physical barriers . Existing car park is at present not suitable for wheelchair users. It was pointed out that the car park has still to be completed as part of a package of Developer Contribution.

Signage :
Signage is an issue and it was pointed out that signs should be accessible to disabled users. This is no information available at present on the length of the paths and their suitability for disabled users. The Bell Wood is also difficult to find for first time users as there are no road signs indicating the route to the car park.

Level of Usage:
The Bell Wood is a popular facility and well used by local residents. However it became clear at the public consultation the relatively few residents from the west end of the village use the Bell Wood for recreation.

Use by Horse Riders:
Horses use the footpaths and have caused damage on some sections of soft ground. It was suggested that there should be signs to designate suitable bridle paths. It was agreed that Eileen Baird will contact the WHW and invite them to discuss. It was agreed that MDL will produce a map showing the paths and bridle paths. The Outdoor Access Forum can be brought in to resolve disputes as a last resort.

Use by Cyclists:
The woods are being used by a number of cyclists. A mountain bike track was a very popular request from young people at the public consultation. If MDL are to create a Mountain bike track then there are areas where it could be situated avoiding sensitive areas. Forest Enterprise have constructed mountain bike tracks. Safety is an issue. See Forres Community Woodlands Trust for an example of a mountain bike trail. There is a cycle way which crosses the WHW fields and could link to the tracks in the Bell Wood. The intention to create a bridge across the Tarland Burn from the south into the wood is in the plan.

Additional Facilities:
The ACWA has drawn up a 5 year action plan outlining proposed developments Additional facilities proposed are: - car park, toilet and shelters. Some objections were raised at the public scoping session on the grounds this would encourage more traffic and that the existing car park was not used to capacity. There was a positive reaction from education users.

6.2 Biodiversity and Wildlife

Mary McLeod advised that the plan has to acknowledge protected species. She table information from the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre. Badgers setts are not known to be present but there was some evidence of badger foraging from a walkover survey. This should be checked. Presence of bats should be checked and knowledge of woodland birds compiled. The Tarland Burn should be checked for otter holts contact made with the water vole project for mink monitoring. Red squirrels were discussed and the squirrel monitoring survey by the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service was noted. Roe deer are known to be present but their numbers are relatively low and there is no evidence that browsing is keeping tree regeneration in check.

There are not known to be any rare or endanger plant species present. There are some garden escape plants in the western end of the wood but there are no known patches of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed

It was suggested that there should be an area of low activity designated to provide a wildlife refuge.

It was noted that the Tarland Burn was graded at "moderate" status by SEPA. DC will check this.

6.3 Silviculture and Timber Harvesting

Mary McLeod pointed out that the landscape impact of any felling and replanting should be taken into account

It was clear from the public scoping session that the local community would like to see long term continuity of tree cover. However small patch felling and replacement would be acceptable.

The advisability of felling some of the spruce on wet ground along the Tarland Burn and replacing with native broadleaved trees was discussed and considered advisable. Over the remainder of the area the current policy of continuous cover or small patch felling would be continued. Dan Cadle pointed out that a Sustainable Forest Management Grant is available for the maintenance work involved in Low Impact Silvicultural systems is available under the Scottish Rural Development Programme.

7. The Lady Wood

7.1 Introduction

The Lady Wood is the last remnant of the old oak woodland existing since at least 1822 and probably consists of oak planted at the time of the Napoleonic wars. The local opinion is that it should stay as it is and the oak trees should be maintain as far as possible.

7.2 Recreation

Ruth Sim recommended that access provision for the disabled should again follow the guidelines in the BT Countryside Guide.

The present footpaths were installed by the then UDAT about 6 years ago but there were little or no specifications laid down and the paths are not wheelchair accessible. UDAT will maintain them for 10 years. There was a request for perches be installed to assist use of the wood by the disabled and it was noted that a request had been made to upgrade the path so it could be used by people in wheelchairs.

The paths are regularly used as a route to school and as a route to the public library and Community centre. The heavy usage will necessitate regular maintenance including cutting back path side vegetation.

Both the Aboyne Academy and Aboyne Primary School use the Ladywood for environmental studies and the wood is used for cross country running.

The mature oaks should be checked regularly to ensure public safety.

7.3 Biodiversity and Wildlife

The beech seedlings at the western end of the wood were discussed. It was pointed out that, if left unchecked they will eventually shade out all the ground cover plants where the beech grow closely together. Removing the beech and replanting with locally collected oak seedlings was suggested.

Garden escape plants are present in the wood, however this is almost inevitable with a wood in this situation. A lookout should be kept for any invasive exotic plant species.

8. Conclusions

Dan Cadle summarised all the points raise at the meeting and pointed out that the next stage in the process was to produce a scoping report. This will be circulated to all participants for comment before the detailed preparation of the Forest Plan can be commenced

Appendix 3
Correspondence Received

From SNH

Apologies for being unable to attend the meeting on Friday morning regarding the Bell and Lady Wood Forest Scoping Plan. I have prepared some comments however below:

River Dee SAC

Part of the site is within the catchment of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation, designated for freshwater pearl mussels, Atlantic salmon and otter, so measures are needed to avoid any silt release into the watercourse during forestry operations.

The Bell wood concept map outlines the possibility of removing exotic conifers from the stream side and replacing with native broadleaves. The Tarland Burn has been the topic of much surveying in the past and therefore datasets should be available to inform the Forest plan. Otter are one of the designated features of the SAC and it is likely that they use the Tarland Burn. As otter are a European protected species it is necessary to carry out an otter survey to identify absence or presence of otter and any holts or couches in the area that work is proposed. If the survey identifies the presence or signs of otter then SNH should be contacted to provide further advice and information on any licensing requirements.

The forest plan will need to be subject to an appraisal of the potential impacts on the interests of the River Dee SAC and, if any significant effects on the features are likely, an appropriate assessment will be required. This assessment would be carried out by FCS but SNH can provide further advice on this if required.

Squirrels

We would recommend not felling the spruce trees but keeping them and possibly planting native broadleaves (such as Hazel) interspersed amongst the established trees. However the planting of native broadleaves does not necessarily add to the favoured food source of the red squirrel but should encourage grey squirrel exclusion. To continue on the theme of grey squirrel exclusion we would advise not planting any oak trees anywhere on site as they provide ideal grey squirrel habitat.

FCS have their own guidance and specialist understanding of red squirrels and how to encourage them in Lady and Bell wood, if not already present, and will therefore be able to offer advice on this particular part of the plan.

Other protected species

In addition to red squirrels, there are a range of other protected species, including badgers and bats that may be affected by woodland management operations. We advise that checks for such species should be carried out to ensure that the requirements of these species are taken into consideration during works and to avoid inadvertently committing any offences. I would recommend contacting the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC). They can advise you of any records of habitats or species of conservation interest in the area of the proposed works.

NESBReC, University of Aberdeen, 23 St Machar Drive, ABERDEEN, AB24 3RY
Tel. 01224 273633
http://www.nesbrec.org.uk/

They will probably hold species records for much of this area and the information could be used to inform management. FCS has also produced guidance notes on these issues but please let me know if you would like any further advice.

At this stage I am not able to provide more specific advice. If more site specific advice on species or habitats is required then please get in touch.

Please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss any of the above or if there is other information or advice that you need from us.

Best wishes

Julia Galley
Area Officer
Aberdeenshire South
Scottish Natural Heritage
Inverdee House
Baxter Street, Torry
Aberdeen, AB11 9QA
tel: 01224 266 500
direct dial: 01224 266 511

Hi Irvine

Just to let you know that we have no comments to make on the plans for these two woods.

Best wishes
Ian

Ian Francis

Area Manager, NE Scotland

RSPB Scotland

01224 624824

Our ref: PCS/108056/AD/CB

Francis Wilbur
Mid-Deeside Scotland
The Victory Hall
Ballater Road
Aboyne
AB34 5HY

If telephoning ask for:
Andrea Dilley

25 June 2010

Dear Mr Wilbur

Mid Deeside Ltd – Bell Wood and Lady Wood Forest Plan Scoping Meeting Stakeholder Consultation

Thank you for your letter of 8 June 2010, received by SEPA on 10 June 2010, inviting us to a scoping meeting on 2 July 2010. We do not routinely attend forest plan scoping meetings, but are always willing to provide advice on specific issues insofar as our interests are concerned upon request.

Our initial advice is provided below but when you have a draft report we will be pleased to review this and provide, where applicable, site specific comments.

1. River Basin Management Plans

1.1 For your information, the final River Basin Management Plans for the Scotland and the Solway Tweed river basin districts are now available on our website at www.sepa.org.uk/water/river_basin_planning.aspx . The GIS interactive map enables a search on individual water bodies within a forest plan area and associated water body data sheets give information about an individual waterbody's current ecological status, any pressures upon it, measures being taken to resolve any issues and targets for any improvement needed.

1.2 We note that this forestry area drains into the Tarland Burn. It is also close to the confluence with the River Dee (Ballater to Banchory) water body.

1.3 The Tarland Burn is at moderate status, and is affected by diffuse pollution and alterations to its beds and banks. River Basin Management Planning requires that all stakeholders seek to prevent deterioration and improve the ecological status of water bodies where possible. This should be achieved by a clear emphasis on the Forests & Water Guidelines best practice as part of restocking, operations and long term planning.

1.4 The River Dee (Ballater to Banchory) is also at moderate status because of fish barrier(s) and point source pollution – the forestry proposal is unlikely to impact on these issues, but good practice in forestry management will help to prevent deterioration in this water body, which is a Drinking Water Protection Area and part of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation.

2. General advice

2.1 In general, with regards to woodland management, if the proposals accord with the Forest and Water Guidelines and follow best practice it is unlikely that we would have major issues. The Working Checklist at the back of the Guidelines is particularly important to observe in planning and carrying out operations on site.

2.2 Specific care should be taken when working in areas close to watercourses, which includes ditches, to ensure that pollution does not occur. As highlighted within the Forests & Water Guidelines, surface water drains should not discharge directly into the water environment and, where applicable, you should seek to address existing drains of this type to avoid siltation problems during and after forestry operations.

3. Regulatory advice

3.1 The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (as amended) (CAR)

3.1.1 From 1 April 2006 CAR replaced the Control of Pollution Act and Groundwater Regulations. These new regulations not only control discharges to watercourses and groundwater but also cover abstractions, impoundments and engineering works within and in the vicinity of inland surface waters. This means that activities such as culverting, ditch clearing, dredging, bridging and damming may now require to be authorised under CAR.

3.1.2 The publication 'The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005: A Practical Guide' provides very useful advice on CAR and it is recommended that all applicants consult this document.

3.1.3 Details of regulatory requirements (including a link to the CAR Practical Guide) and good practice advice for the applicant can be found on our website at www.sepa.org.uk/planning.aspx. If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the Environmental Protection and Improvement (EPI) Team in your local SEPA office at: Inverdee House, Baxter Street, Torry, Aberdeen AB11 9QA Tel: 01224 266600.

If you have any queries relating to this letter, please contact me by telephone on 01349 860302 or e-mail at planning.aberdeen@sepa.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

pp

Andrea Dilley
Planning Officer
Planning Service

From: Laura Barker [mailto:laurajobarker@gmail.com]
Sent: 26 June 2010 13:14
To: Donna Speed
Subject: 20 year plan Development of Bellwood / Ladywood

Dear Sir / Madam

I am aware of the open meeting held today in Aboyne to poll public opinion on the 20 year plan development of Bellwood and Ladywood.

Unfortunately I can not attend in person however I would appreciate it if my opinion is taking into account and duly noted for the record.

I feel very strongly that to build a further car park in addition to the existing under used car park is a total waste and misappropriation of public funds.

To even consider building toilet facilities in this small woodland is quite simply a nonsense. Not only is it not justified, but the ongoing maintenance of these facilities is costly, and as has been previously shown, they attract less than desirable activity as well as falling into disrepair and disuse over a very short period.

Your justification being that disabled people require these facilities is less than well founded, I would be interested to know whether you have statistics that prove that there is enough call from the disabled community for this investment.

Regards

Laura Barker

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels North East Scotland Project Officer (Hollie Walker) Comments
Re: Mid Deeside Ltd- Bell Wood and Lady Wood Forest Plan

Introduction

There are currently seven Red Squirrel Conservation Officers in Scotland: Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (SSRS) Project Officers cover the North East, Tayside and Argyll and the Trossachs; Red Squirrel in South Scotland (RSSS) Project Officers cover Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders; and there are also Red Squirrel Project Officers in Highland and Fife.

As well as woodland management for the benefit of red squirrels the following information is important to SSRS:

- **Report sightings**
  All sightings of red and grey squirrels in North East Scotland should be reported to the Local Squirrel Group in your region- NESBReC http://www.nesbrec.org.uk/submitRecords.asp or the Grampian Squirrel Group http://www.grampiansquirrelgroup.co.uk/red_squirrels_sightings.htm.
- **Survey and monitoring**
  Long term monitoring programmes are underway at selected target woodlands to monitor the distribution and population density of red squirrels, and the spread of grey squirrels. If you would like to get involved in fieldwork, please contact the SSRS Project Officer for the North East
- **Grey squirrel control**
  The humane control of grey squirrels in red and grey squirrel interface areas is essential. There may be traps available for loan to appropriate individuals; contact Grampian Squirrel Group or the Project Officer- North East- Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels redsquirrelgrampian@swt.org.uk.

Grey squirrels are not far away from both woodlands in the Forest Plans. Therefore the SSRS north east Project Officer (NEPO) would request that grey squirrel control be considered in the plan. If grey squirrel control occurs in and around the woodlands, the more likely it will be that the woodland retains a healthy population of red squirrels.

To aid the survival of the red squirrel in the long term, it is important that appropriate habitat management is undertaken to help increase the range and numbers of red squirrels and discourage the spread of grey squirrels.

In woodlands where only red squirrels are present, management for them should be strongly favoured.

Lady Wood

Remove beech seedlings

This is beneficial to red squirrels as large-seeded broadleaved tree species such as oak (*Quercus* spp.), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are used by red squirrels, but should be discouraged as they also attract grey squirrels.

Bell Wood

Felling plantation of spruce trees

In mixed broadleaved/conifer woodland, management for red squirrels should focus on enhancing the conifer element, whilst maintaining the balance of broadleaved/conifer species. This will help to provide long term habitat for red squirrels. Coniferous woodlands offer the greatest potential for supporting red squirrels in the presence of grey squirrel expansion, as small-seeded conifers are not favoured by grey squirrels, therefore avoiding felling of the spruce would be preferred.

If felling is decided the SSRS north east Project Officer (NEPO) would request the following:

- Survey area for dreys
- Avoid felling or thinning trees between February and early October (the breeding season).
- Felling should ideally take place in small coupes although the acceptable size of felling areas is dependent on the total size of the woodland and the risk of wind blow. Large scale clear felling should be avoided.
- It is important that felling does not fragment the woodland canopy; links must be retained between seed-producing areas to prevent isolation, reduce losses from predation, and facilitate movement of red squirrels between them. However, this should not preclude opening up the canopy of dense woodland, for example, by thinning.
- New planting in appropriate areas should be encouraged, provided the preferred conifer species are to be used. If a proportion of broadleaved trees are required, small-seeded species should be favoured. However, consideration should be given to other conservation objectives, such as use of native species, local provenance, etc.

Create more clearings?

It is important that felling does not fragment the woodland canopy; links must be retained between seed-producing areas to prevent isolation, reduce losses from predation, and facilitate movement of red squirrels between them. However, this should not preclude opening up the canopy of dense woodland, for example, by thinning.

Recently felled area. Replant or keep as open ground?

If replanting please consider the species below:

Species of benefit to red squirrels		**Other species of neutral value for red squirrels, which do not benefit grey squirrels**	
Norway spruce	**Wych elm**	willows	bramble
Scots pine	red cedar	aspen	guelder rose
Lodgepole pine	cypress	alder	dog rose
Corsican pine	hawthorn	birch	holly
Larches	blackthorn	rowan	juniper

Douglas fir	bird cherry	ash	
yew	wild cherry		

Remove exotic conifers from stream side and replace with native broadleaves?

Large-seeded broadleaved tree species such as oak (*Quercus* spp.), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are used by red squirrels, but should be discouraged as they also attract grey squirrels. Where small numbers of large-seeded broadleaved tree species occur within coniferous woodland, they should, where possible, be replaced with small-seeded broadleaved tree species suited to the locality, such as:

Willow (*Salix* spp.)
Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)
Aspen (*Populus tremulus*)
Birch (*Betula* spp.)
Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

Additional comments:

- The recommended age structure of a conifer woodland for the benefit of red squirrels depends on the tree species involved, but as a general rule woodland managers should aim for the following:

30% at 0-15years, 30% at 15-30 years and 40% over 30 years old. This ensures continuity in seed production for red squirrels. At least 50-60% of the woodland should be of seed-producing age (ie Over 15 years old).

Spruce/larch dominated	***Pine dominated***
20-30% of 0-15 years	20-30% of 0-20 years
20-30% of 15-30 years	20-30% of 20-40 years
At least 40% of 30+ years	At least 40% of 40+ years

- Ideally there should be areas of long-term retention
- Focus on enhancing the conifer element where appropriate, particularly on diversifying the main conifer species in single-species plantations.
- A mixture of tree species is important to reduce the impact of poor cone years in particular species.

From: MARCUS HUMPHREY. C.B.E. D.L. F.R.I.C.S.

Tel: ABOYNE (013398) 85332
Email: marcus@dinnet.force9.co.uk

DINNET,
ABOYNE,
ABERDEENSHIRE,
AB34 5LN.

Our Ref: JMMH/JAF/MDCC/01

2 July 2010

Francis Wilbur
Mid Deeside Ltd
The Victory Hall
Ballater Road
ABOYNE
AB34 5HY

Dear Frances

Mid Deeside Ltd – Bell Wood and Lady Wood Forest Plan Scoping Meeting – Stakeholder Consultation

Many thanks for your letter of 8 June with enclosures.

I am sorry I was not able to manage either the Drop-in session on 26 June, nor the Scoping Meeting on 2 July due to previous commitments.

Your suggestions for both woodland areas seem eminently sensible, and I look forward to hearing the results from both the Drop-in Session and the Scoping Meeting in due course.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

J M M Humphrey

Our ref:P/ARCHAEO/SRDP/10jun0022
Your ref:

Ask for: Moira Greig
Direct dial: 01224 664726

14 June 2010

Francis Wilbur
M id Deeside Ltd
The Vicotry hall
Ballater Road
Aboyne
AB34 5HY

Dear Francis

Mid Deeside Ltd – Bell Wood and Lady Wood Forest Plan Scoping

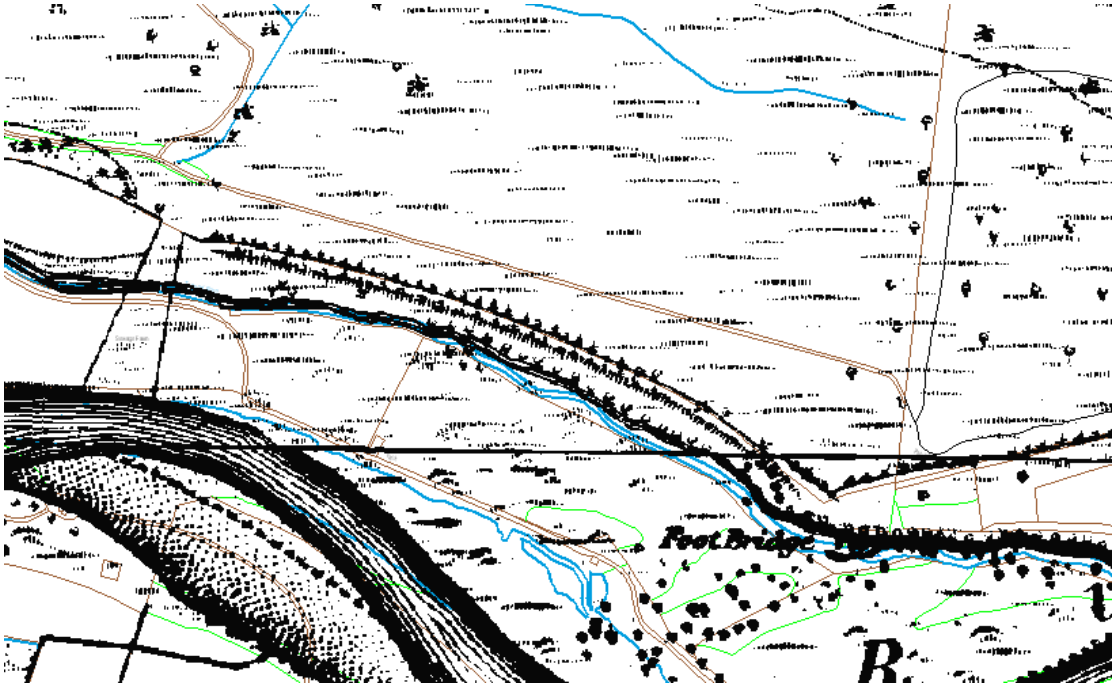
Thank you for your letter of 8 June regarding the above-proposed Forest Plan.
We have no sites recorded within either area of woodland. However, when felling woodland over 30 years old there is always a slight possibility of uncovering unrecorded archaeology. This is in relation to Bell Wood, where the remains of buildings are recorded just to the north, outwith the Plan area..

Just out of interest I also noted, while looking at the OS 1st edition map, that there appeared to have been a tree-lined road along side the river to the south.

As we have no sites I will not be attending the scoping meeting but thank you for the invitation.

Yours sincerely

Moira Greig
Archaeologist



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Appendix 4

Aboyne Community Woods Association
Constitution

ABOYNE COMMUNITY WOODS ASSOCIATION - CONSTITUTION

Name

The Association shall be called Aboyne Community Woods Association

Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be:-

1. to conserve the natural heritage of the Bell Wood and Ladywood and their flora and fauna
2. to advise on the management of the woodland in a sustainable manner and promote biodiversity
3. to encourage the community to enjoy the woodland as a resource for recreational, educational and health activities, improve access and promote responsible use.

Membership

The Association is open to anyone who lives or works in the Aboyne area and subscribes to the above objectives.

Organisation

The Association shall be managed by a Committee with a minimum of 5 members and a maximum of 12 who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Members of the Committee may serve for 3 years and be re-elected for a second period of 3 years. Any member who has served for 6 consecutive years must stand down for a period of 1 year after which the member will be eligible to stand again for election.
A director of Mid Deeside Limited shall attend as an *ex officio* member.
A representative of Scottish Natural Heritage may attend as an *ex officio* member.

Powers of the Committee

- the Committee shall represent the views of the community and make recommendations to the Board of Mid Deeside Limited on the development of the woodland
- the Committee may co-opt members
- the Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy which may occur during the year
- the Committee may raise funds in support of the aims of Aboyne Community Woods Association and maintain a bank account

Election of Office Bearers

A Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer and other office bearers of the Association Committee shall be elected at the first meeting after the AGM and shall continue in office for the ensuing year.

Procedure at Meetings

A quorum for meetings of the Association Committee shall be 3. Voting will be by a show of hands and in the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson will have a second casting vote. The Committee may invite other people to attend the meeting but those attending by invitation will not have voting rights.

Annual General Meeting

The Committee of the Association will meet a minimum of 4 times per annum and will hold an Annual General Meeting. Members shall be notified in writing of the date of the Annual General Meeting 21 clear days in advance. A quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be 10.

Special Meetings

The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting at any time upon receiving a request signed by not fewer than 5 members. 12 days notice of all Special General Meetings and of all motions to be proposed shall be sent to all members. No other business shall be discussed.

Alteration of Constitution

Notice of any proposed alteration in the constitution shall be made in writing to the Secretary not later 21 days before the date of the annual General Meeting. Notice of any proposed alteration shall be sent to all members at least 7 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. No alteration to the Constitution shall be passed unless supported by at least two thirds of those present at the meeting.

Financial Procedures

The funds of the Association shall be managed by the Treasurer and the accounts shall be inspected annually by a competent person. All cheques issued on behalf of the Association must be signed by 2 of 3 registered signatories authorised by the Association Committee.

Dissolution of the Association

In the event that the members decide to dissolve the Association, the committee will arrange for any funds remaining in the bank account to be handed over to a group which has similar aims.

Appendix 5

List of Birds Recorded in the Bell Wood

Bell Wood Bird Species

Species	Season recorded *	Breeding confirmed
Barn Owl	winter	
Blackbird	winter/breeding	
Blackcap	breeding	
Black-headed Gull	winter/breeding	yes
Blue Tit	winter/breeding	yes
Bullfinch	breeding	
Buzzard	winter/breeding	
Carrion Crow	winter/breeding	
Chaffinch	winter/breeding	yes
Coal Tit	winter/breeding	yes
Common Sandpiper	breeding	
Common Tern	breeding	
Dipper	winter	
Goldcrest	breeding	
Goldfinch	breeding	yes
Great Spotted Woodpecker	breeding	
Great Tit	winter/breeding	
Grey Heron	breeding	
House Martin	breeding	
Jackdaw	winter/breeding	
Jay	winter/breeding	
Lapwing	breeding	yes
Long-tailed Tit	winter/breeding	
Magpie	breeding	
Mallard	breeding	
Mistle Thrush	breeding	
Oystercatcher	breeding	yes
Pheasant	winter/breeding	
Pied/White Wagtail	winter/breeding	yes
Robin	winter/breeding	
Rook	winter	
Sand Martin	breeding	
Skylark	winter/breeding	
Spotted Flycatcher	breeding	
Starling	winter/breeding	yes
Swallow	breeding	
Swift	breeding	
Tawny Owl	post-breeding	
Tree Pipit	breeding	
Treecreeper	winter/breeding	
Tufted Duck	breeding	
Willow Warbler	breeding	yes
Woodpigeon	winter/breeding	
Wren	winter/breeding	
Yellowhammer	breeding	

* NO59P Timed tetrad visits (Helen Rowe: 8/12/08, 25/2/09, 27/5/09, 8/7/09) & roving records (Helen Rowe: 23/1/09, 25/9/10 & 6 records from other contributors). NO59P tetrad includes 4 1km grid squares: NO5498, NO5598, NO5499, NO5599, but most records from representative habitats in NO5498 & NO5598 - Bell Wood, neighbouring farmland & section of Tarland Burn/River Dee.

Appendix 6

List of Lepidoptera Recorded in the Bell Wood

and the Lady Wood

Bell Wood Moth Species		
Species	**Status (NE Scotland)**	**Food plant**
Agonopterix assimilella	Common	broom
Agriphila straminella	Abundant	grasses
Agriphila tristella	Abundant	grasses
Ancylis badiana	Common	peas, vetches
Antler Moth	Common	grasses
Barred Red	Common	pine, spruce, fir
Barred Straw	Common	bedstraws
Beech-green Carpet	Local	bedstraws
Bird-cherry Ermine	Locally abundant	bird cherry
Bordered White	Common	Scots pine
Brimstone Moth	Common	deciduous trees
Brindled Beauty	Local	deciduous trees
Brown Rustic	Common	low plants
Brown Silver-line	Common	bracken
Buff-tip	Scarce	deciduous trees
Burnished Brass	Common	stinging nettle
Chestnut	Common	deciduous trees
Clouded Buff	Locally scarce	heather
Clouded Drab	Common	deciduous trees
Clouded-bordered Brindle	Common	grasses
Cocksfoot Moth	Abundant	cock's-foot & fescue grasses
Common Carpet	Common	bedstraws, willowherbs
Common White Wave	Common	deciduous trees
Common/Lesser Common Rustic	Common	grasses
Dark Arches	Abundant	grasses
Dark Marbled Carpet	Common	sallow, birch, blaeberry
Dioryctria abietella	Local	Scots pine
Diurnea fagella	Common	deciduous trees
Dotted Clay	Common	low plants
Double-striped Pug	Common	polyphagous (flowers)
Early Tooth-striped	Common	sallow, birch, alder
Engrailed	Local	deciduous trees
Eudonia truncicolella	Common	mosses
Flame Carpet	Common	brassicas
Garden Carpet	Common	crucifers
Green Carpet	Common	bedstraws
Grey Pine Carpet	Common	pine
Hebrew Character	Common	deciduous trees
Ingrailed Clay	Common	low plants
Iron Prominent	Local	birch, alder
July Highflyer	Abundant	sallow, blaeberry, heather
Large Yellow Underwing	Abundant	low plants
Lesser Yellow Underwing	Common	low plants
Light Emerald	Common	deciduous trees
Ling Pug	Common	heather
Map-winged Swift	Common	polyphagous (roots)
Middle-barred Minor	Common	grasses
Mother Shipton	Rare	grasses
Mottled Beauty	Common	polyphagous
Mottled Grey	Common	bedstraws
November Moth	Common	deciduous trees
Nut-tree Tussock	Common	deciduous trees
Ochreous Pug	Local	pine

Orange Underwing	Local	birch
Peppered Moth	Widespread	polyphagous
Purple Bar	Common	bedstraws
Red Chestnut	Common	low plants
Red Sword-grass	Locally scarce	low plants
Red-green Carpet	Locally common	oak, rowan
Red-line Quaker	Locally common	sallow, willow
Riband Wave	Common	low plants
Rosy Rustic	Common	low plants (roots)
Satin Beauty	Local, increasing	spruce, pine, yew, oak, birch
Scalloped Hazel	Common	deciduous trees
Scoparia ambigualis	Common to abundant	mosses, lichens
Shaded Broad-bar	Common	clovers, vetches
Silver-ground Carpet	Abundant	low plants
Small Dotted Buff	Common	low plants
Small Fan-footed Wave	Common	sedges, rushes
Small Wainscot	Common	grasses
Smoky Wainscot	Common	grasses
Snout	Common	stinging nettle
Spruce Carpet	Rare, increasing	spruce
Square-spot Rustic	Common	low plants
Stenoptilia pterodactyla	Common	germander speedwell
Sword-grass	Locally scarce	low plants
Tawny-barred Angle	Common	Scots pine
Twin-spot Carpet	Abundant	willowherbs, blaeberry
Udea lutealis	Common	polyphagous
Water Carpet	Common	bedstraws
NB: Irregular recording & incomplete coverage mean that many more moth species are likely to be present in the Bell Wood.		
14 of 80 species recorded to date are local &/or scarce or rare in NE Scotland & of these 2 are UK BAP Priority Species: Sword-grass & Brindled Beauty.		

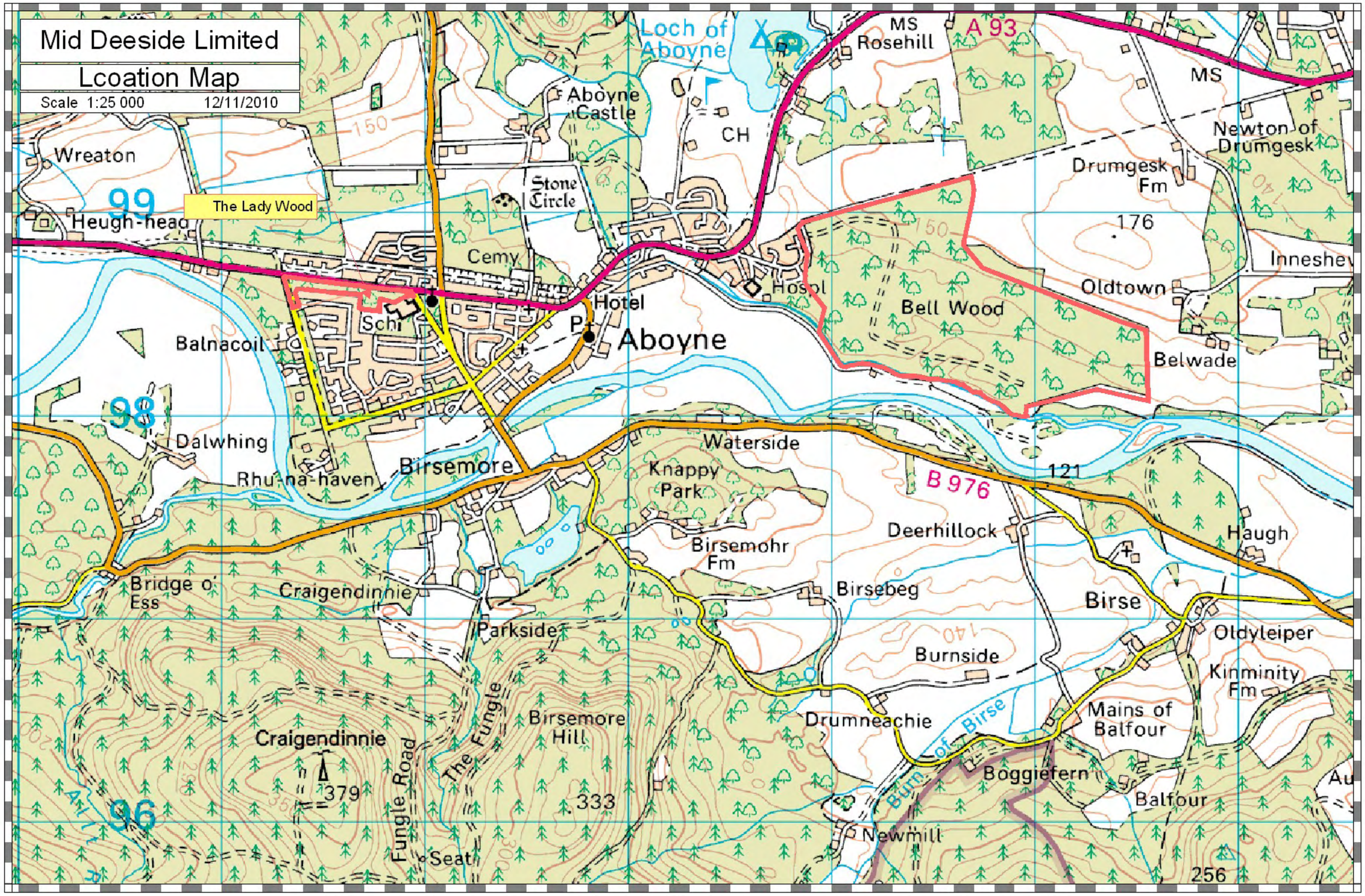
Bell Wood Butterfly Species		
Species	**Status (NE Scotland)**	**Food plant**
Green-veined White	Common	crucifers, usually lady's smock
Large White	Common	brassicas
Northern Brown Argus	Local	rock-rose
Orange-tip	Local	crucifers, usually lady's smock
Peacock	Local, becoming common	stinging nettle
Red Admiral	Migrant, often breeds	stinging nettle
Ringlet	Common	grasses
Small Copper	Local	sorrels
Small Heath	Common	fescues & meadow-grasses
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	Locally scarce	violets
Speckled Wood	Locally scarce, spreading	grasses
6 of 11 butterfly species recorded to date in Bell Wood are local &/or scarce in NE Scotland, though of these Northern Brown Argus (UK BAP Priority Species) record is of presumed stray & Peacock is becoming more common.		
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary is a UK BAP Priority Species as is Small Heath, though latter is common in NE Scotland.		
Speckled Wood is a recent arrival (within last few years) on Deeside.		

Species	Status	Food plant
Agriphila straminella	Abundant	grasses
Amblyptilia acanthadactyla	Local	polyphagous (flowers, seeds)
Argyresthia goedartella	Abundant	birch (catkins)
Beautiful Golden Y	Common	low plants, usually stinging nettle
Caloptilia alchimiella	Local	oak
Common Carpet	Common	bedstraws, willowherbs
Coxcomb Prominent	Common	deciduous trees
Dark Marbled Carpet	Common	sallow, birch, blaeberry
Dipleurina lacustrata	Common	mosses
Dotted Carpet	Local	beard lichen on oak
Double Square-spot	Common	low plants
Green-veined White	Common	crucifers, usually lady's smock
Large Yellow Underwing	Abundant	low plants
Map-winged Swift	Common	polyphagous (roots)
Orange-tip	Local	crucifers, usually lady's smock
Red Admiral	Migrant, often breeds	stinging nettle
Riband Wave	Common	low plants
Scoparia ambigualis	Common to abundant	mosses, lichens
Small Copper	Local	sorrels
Small Rivulet	Common	hemp nettle seeds
Stigmella sp.	Local/locally scarce/rare?	oak
Vapourer	Local	deciduous trees, often rose
NB: Irregular recording & incomplete coverage mean that many more species are likely to be present in Lady Wood.		
7 of 22 species recorded to date are local &/or scarce or rare in NE Scotland, 3 of which are particularly associated with oak woodland.		

Mid Deeside Limited

Lcoation Map

Scale 1:25 000 12/11/2010



Mid Deeside Limited

The Bell Wood

Scale 1:10 000 12/11/2010

METRES 100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 METRES
1:10,000

Mid Deeside Limited

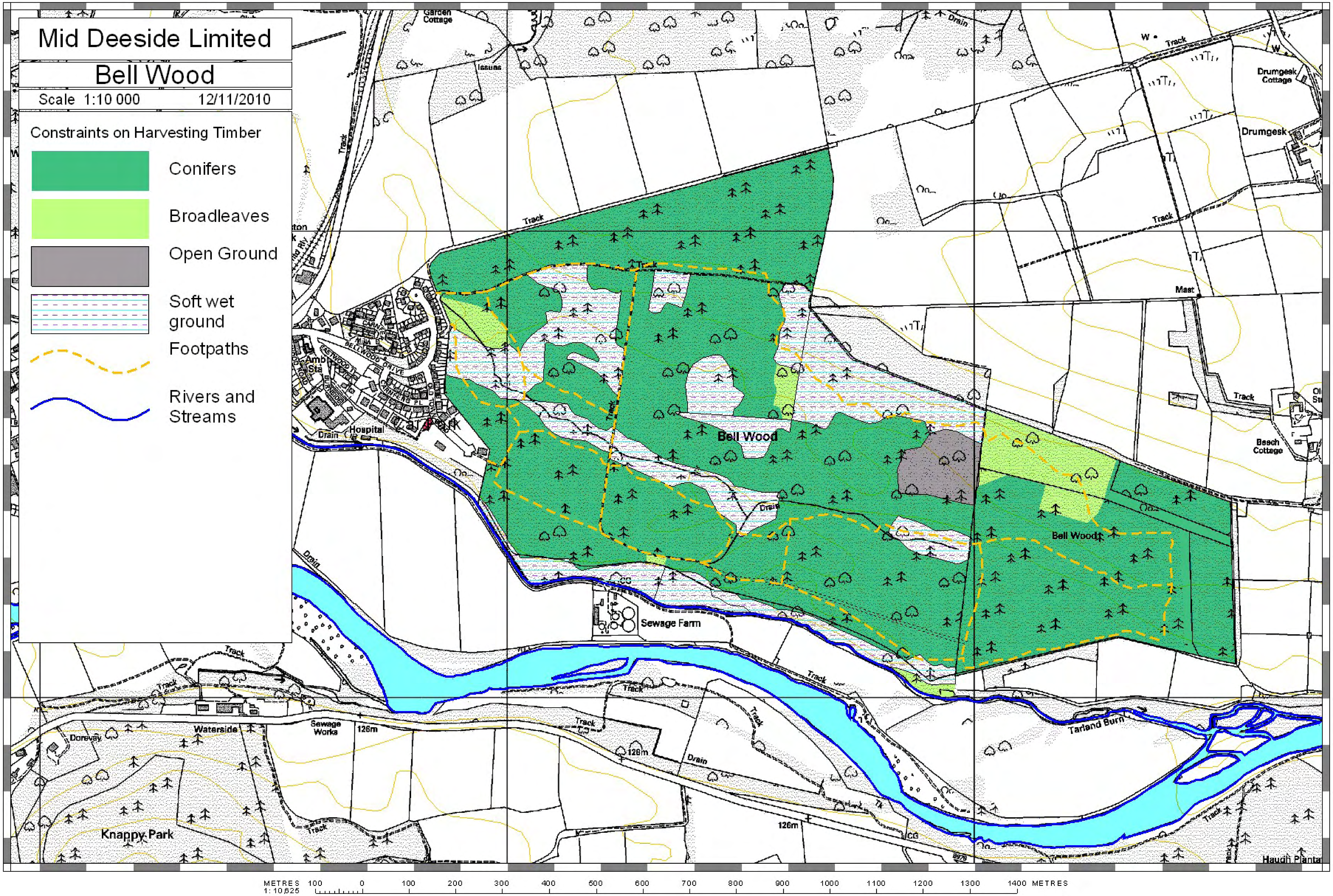
Bell Wood

Scale 1:10 000 12/11/2010

Species Map

- Scots Pine
- Lodgepole Pine
- Larch
- Norway Spruce
- Dougals Fir
- Native Broadleaves
- Mixed Broadleaves
- Norway Spruce/Scots Pine
- Scots Pine/Larch
- Douglas fir/Sitka Spruce
- Mixed conifer on wet ground
- Open Ground

METRES 1:10,000 100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 METRES


Mid Deeside Limited
Bell Wood
Scale 1:10 000
12/11/2010
Constraints on Harvesting Timber
Conifers
Broadleaves
Open Ground
Soft wet ground
Footpaths
Rivers and Streams
Bell Wood
Bell Wood
Sewage Farm
Hospital
Drumgesk Cottage
Drumgesk
Beach Cottage
Mast
Tarland Burn
Waterside
Sewage Works
Knappy Park
Doresay
Garden Cottage
Issues
Track
Drain
126m
Haugh Planta
METRES 100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 METRES
1:10,625

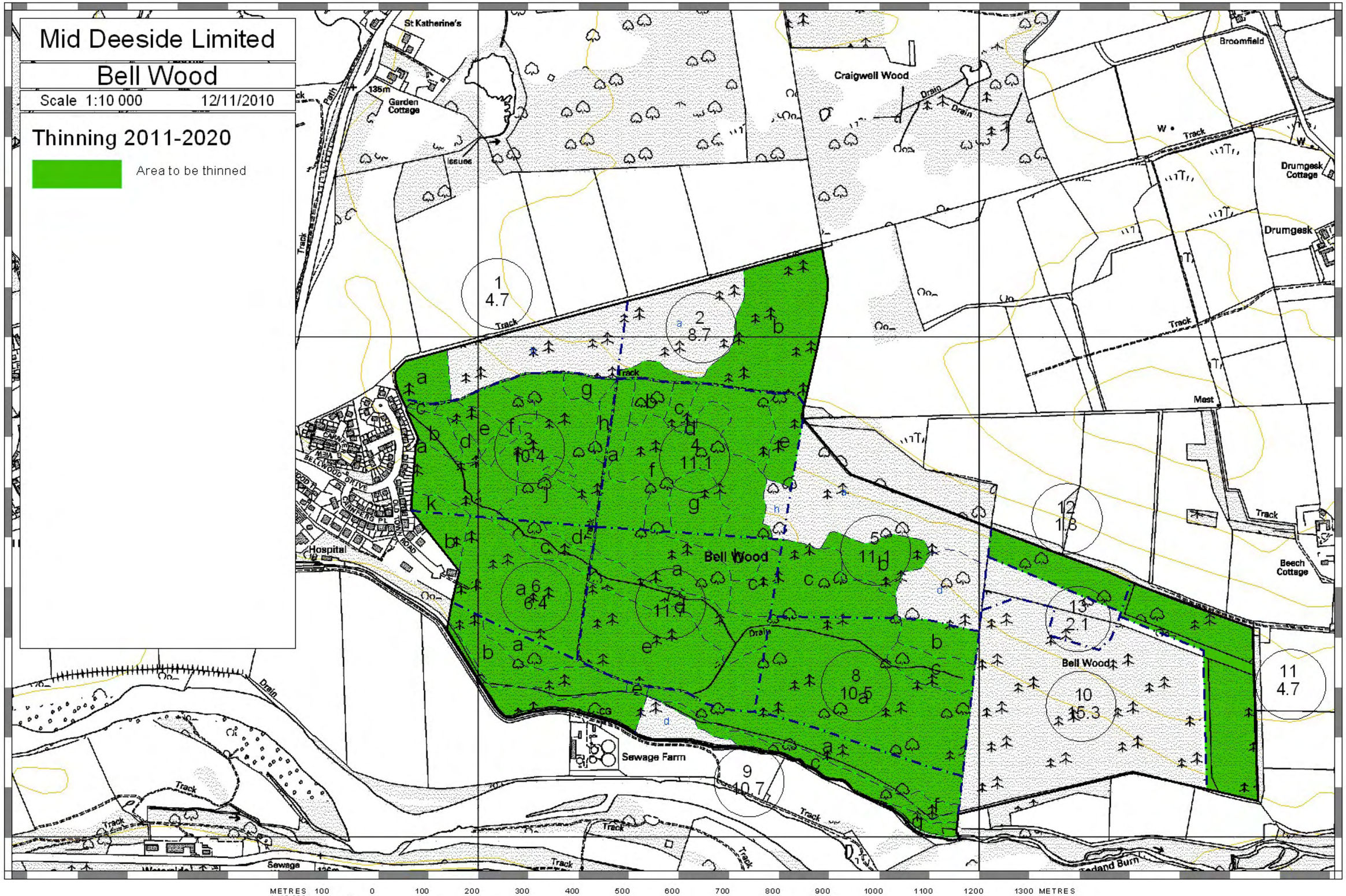
Mid Deeside Limited

Bell Wood

Scale 1:10 000 12/11/2010

Thinning 2011-2020

Area to be thinned



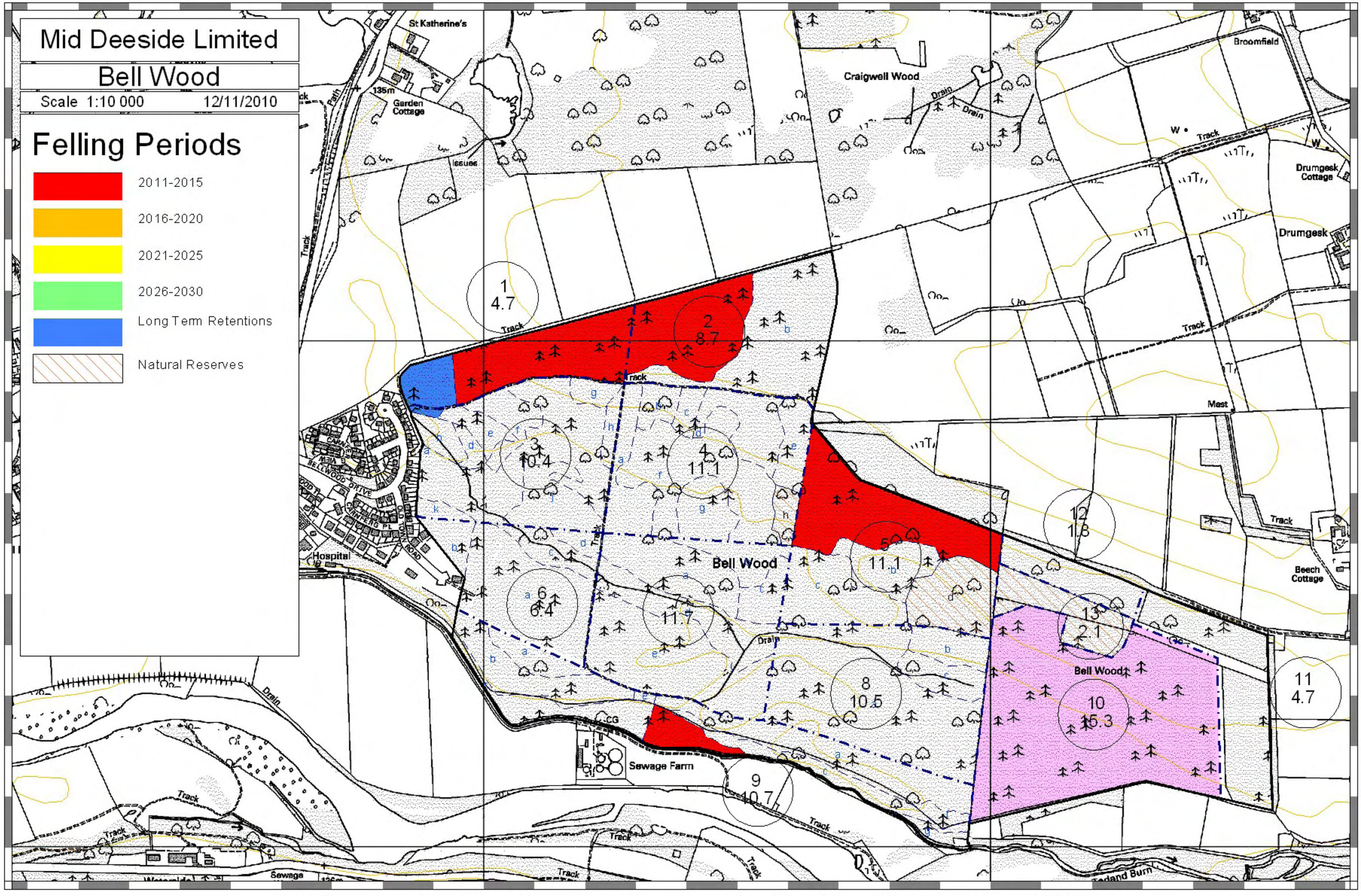
Mid Deeside Limited

Bell Wood

Scale 1:10 000 12/11/2010

Felling Periods

- 2011-2015
- 2016-2020
- 2021-2025
- 2026-2030
- Long Term Retentions
- Natural Reserves



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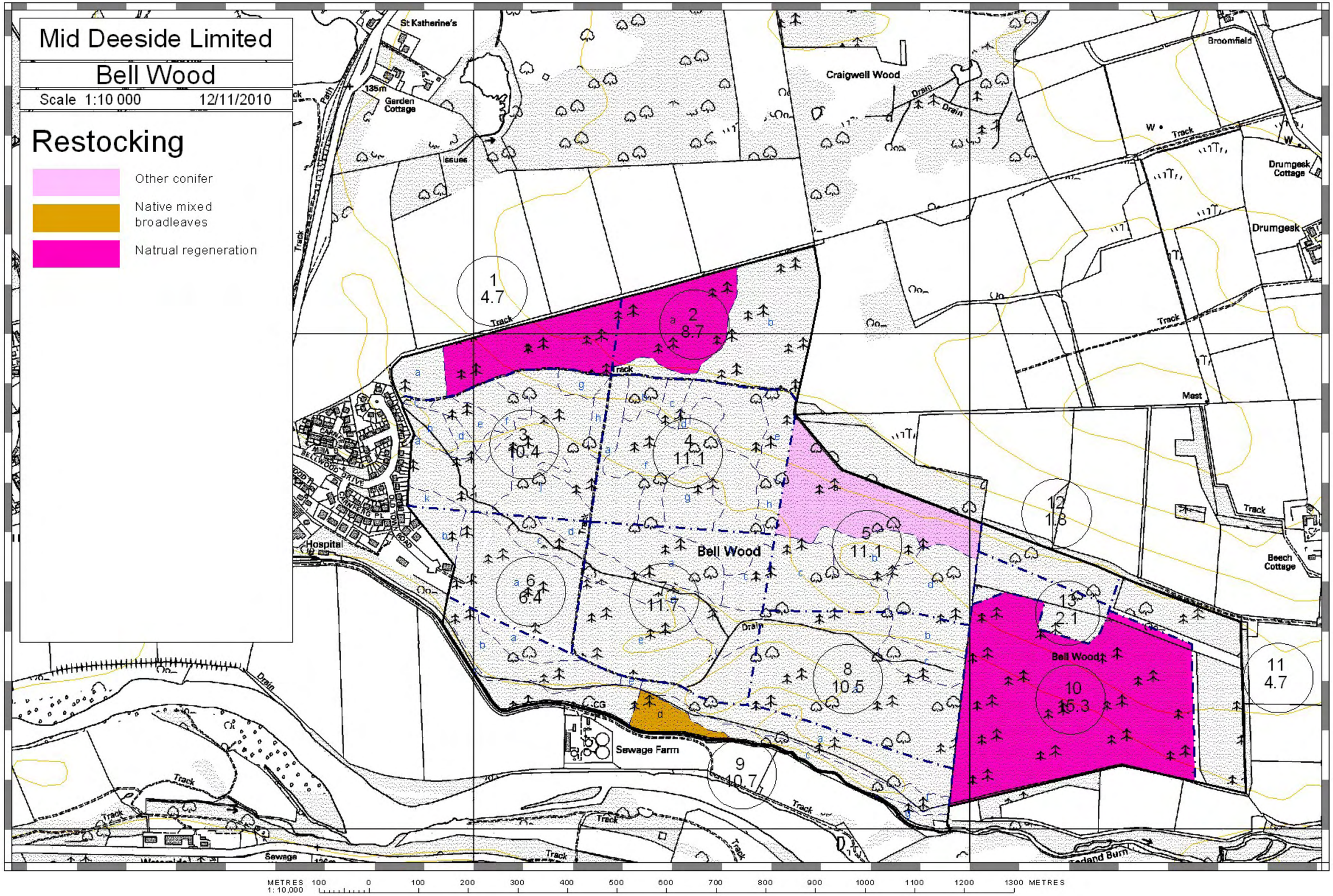
Mid Deeside Limited

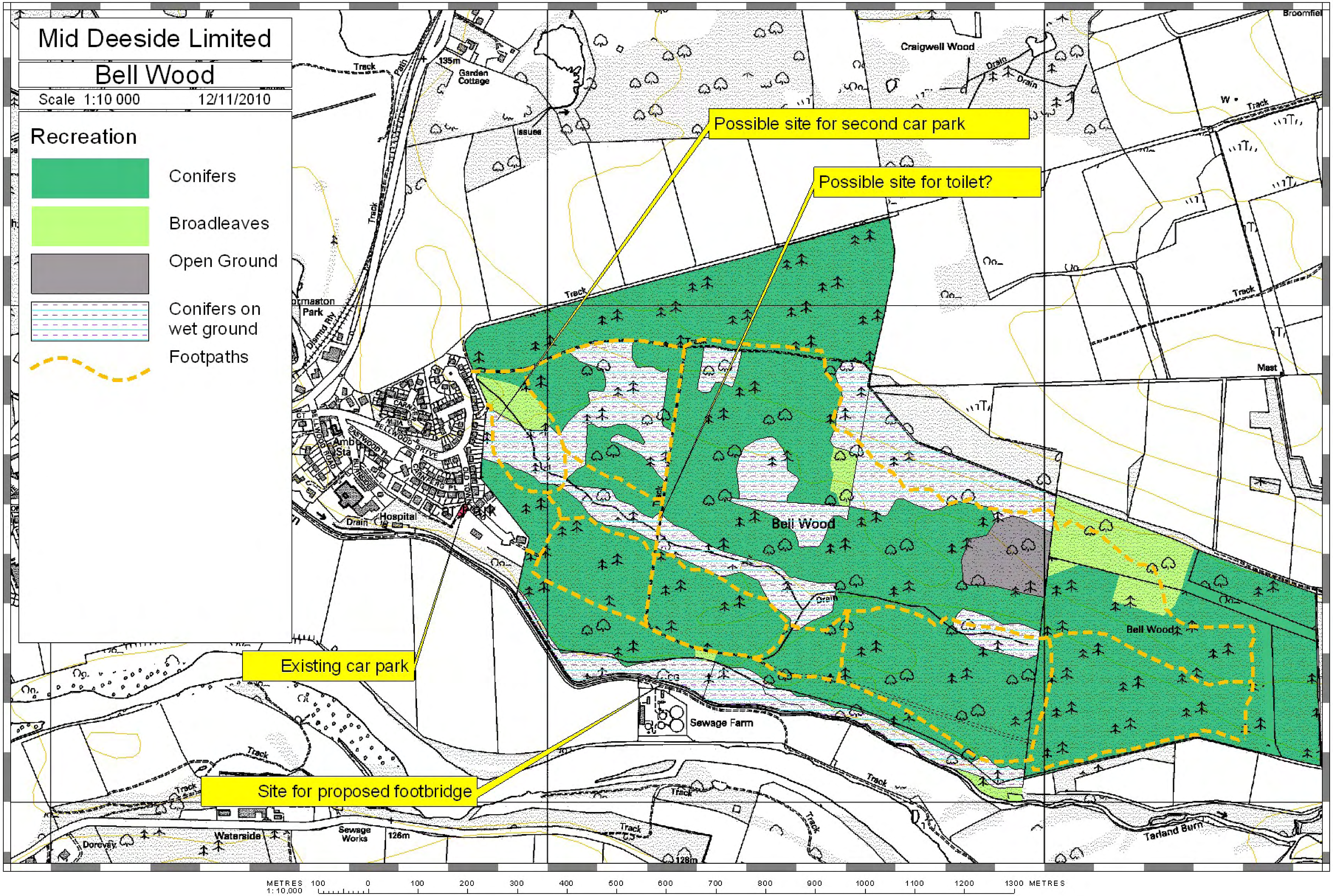
Bell Wood

Scale 1:10 000 12/11/2010

Restocking

- Other conifer
- Native mixed broadleaves
- Natrual regeneration





Mid Deeside Limited
Bell Wood
Scale 1:10 000
12/11/2010
Recreation
Conifers
Broadleaves
Open Ground
Conifers on wet ground
Footpaths
Possible site for second car park
Possible site for toilet?
Existing car park
Site for proposed footbridge
Bell Wood
Craigwell Wood
Sewage Farm
Sewage Works
Waterside
Tarland Burn
Hospital
Garden Cottage
METRES 1:10,000
100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 METRES