

DRAFT MAGUS MUIR MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-26

A W Countryside Services, March 2022.

1. INTRODUCTION

This management plan relates to an area of woodland extending to 11.77 hectares (ha) known as Magus Muir, near the village of Strathkinness in Fife. It was commissioned by the Community Trust sub group of Strathkinness Community Council, which is investigating the purchase of the site from Fife Council. It is the intention of Community Council to retain the site as community woodland with funding from the Forestry Authority and other potential funders, and with the support and involvement of the residents of Strathkinness.

The aim is to develop and implement a long-term management plan for the woodland. The principle objectives of this plan are therefore:

- To record and assess in detail the composition and condition of the existing woodland resource and to identify constraints and opportunities for future management
- To provide a long-term strategy for the multipurpose development of the woodland, with particular emphasis on its role as a community woodland
- To provide a five year plan of operations

Reference is made to a brief report prepared by the West Fife Woodlands Initiative in December 1977, to the MFS Project Plan prepared by Fife Council Planning Service in July 1988 and to the management plan written for Fife Council in 2000.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Location

Magus Muir lies approximately 0.5 miles to the south of the village of Strathkinness, and some 2.5 miles to the west of the popular golfing and holiday resort of St Andrews. Craigtoun Country Park lies 1 mile to the east. The main access point into the woodland lies at OS grid reference NO 459 152. The woodland is accessed by an unclassified public road, which runs immediately adjacent to its eastern boundary. The site is readily accessible to a large resident population.

Area, boundaries and access

The site covers a total area of 11.77 hectares. It sits within a rural landscape surrounded by arable farmland to the north, west and south, and by a public road and a large block of privately owned woodland to the east. The boundary is clearly defined and is mostly demarcated by a stone wall, often topped with stock fencing. This is present along the western, southern and eastern boundaries and is in reasonable repair.

The northern boundary is defined by an open drain, which separates it from the adjacent arable field and is not fenced. A covered reservoir under the control and management of East of Scotland Water is present towards the northeast corner and a post and wire stock fence in good repair encloses this. Ingress of agricultural or domestic grazing stock is not an issue due to the nature of the surrounding land use.

The main access into the woodland is off the metalled public road to the east, where there exists a clear break in the stone boundary wall and a small car park for vehicles. A secondary access point for pedestrians lies approximately 250m to the south of this. The woodland is well used for informal recreation and contains a well-defined network of footpaths.

Geology, Soils and Terrain

The underlying solid geology consists of limestone dating from the Carboniferous period. Soil borings indicate a very homogenous soil throughout the site consisting of a dark loam of high humus content down to a depth of approximately 150-200 mm, overlying very heavy and sticky light coloured clay. This is very uniform in texture and appearance and was encountered down to the investigated depth of 1.2 m. The presence of the underlying clay inhibits drainage and the soils tend to be poorly drained, and subject to winter waterlogging. This could result in future problems of tree stability and predispose mature trees to wind blow. It is also an issue for the footpaths.

The terrain is generally flat and level, with the land falling away very gently to the east. The northerly section of the site drops more steeply down a gentle and even slope towards Strathkinness. Elevation above sea level ranges from 80-100 m. The nature of the terrain presents no limitations as regards woodland management and lends itself to easy public access.

Several open main drains cross the site, and the position of these is indicated in Plan 2. These have seen little by way of maintenance and are not fully functional. A small burn cuts through a gully in the northeast corner of the site.

An overhead power line runs parallel to the northern boundary.

Climate and Exposure

The climate is typical of that experienced in the south east of Scotland, with relatively low annual rainfall and warm summer temperatures. The site is also relatively free from extreme winter temperatures, although may be subject to both early and late frosts.

The woodland is very exposed to the prevailing winds from the west and southwest, by virtue of its location on a low plateau with no shelter on these aspects. The existing woodland to the east provides some shelter from the

often cold easterly winds off the North Sea. The site is therefore very exposed and has a moderate Windthrow Hazard rating. This is the limiting climatic factor on this site.

Ground Vegetation and Fauna

The ground vegetation is very homogenous across the site as a whole. This consists predominantly of grasses and ferns, with a thick and well-developed moss layer. Rushes occur where drainage is particularly poor. Honeysuckle is present in certain areas, and gorse on an area of disturbed open ground immediately to the west of the covered reservoir.

Further survey work regarding the wildlife value of the site would be desirable.

There was no evidence of damage by roe deer, although it is likely that they will be present in the woodland from time to time, in limited numbers. Rabbit numbers do not appear significant and damage by grey squirrel was not evident, although their presence would be expected.

Public Access and Recreation

The woodland is open to free public access and is used on an informal basis by local residents for walking. There is also evidence that cyclists and horses use the site. A sign posted public right of way leads from the main access point to the east to Archbishop Sharp's monument, and the Covenanters' graves beyond. This mostly follows the line of the old Bishop's Road, which has a sub base of stone and is well used. A number of other footpaths exist within the site, which were developed by Fife Council as part of the Millennium Forest grant. The surface of these is of type one aggregate covered with whin dust from Balmullo quarry. These tend to get very water logged and partially eroded following periods of prolonged rain. A small car park, which can accommodate up to ten cars, lies adjacent to the main access point, where a sign directs visitors to the Covenanters' graves.

The woodland is therefore easily accessible and the extensive network of paths well used by local residents and visitors for informal recreation. With the exception of some minor litter at the lay-by, no significant problems of vandalism were noted. There is some dumping of litter experienced from time to time.

Historical Background and Designations

The woodland occupies the site where Archbishop Sharp was reputedly murdered in 1679 by a group of Covenanters. An inscribed stone pyramidal monument commemorates this notable occurrence in Fife's history. The graves of the four Covenanters lie in the field 15 m to the west of the woodland (see Plan 2). The memorial to Archbishop Sharp and the Covenanters' graves are monuments of regional importance. A Public Right of Way that passes through the woodland accesses them. An ancient pilgrimage route known as the "Bishop's Road" runs east to west through the woodland.

The woodland is listed in Scottish Natural Heritage's "Inventory of Ancient, Long Established and Semi-Natural Woodland" for Fife, where it is designated as "long established woodland of plantation origin". These are woods that appear to have been planted between 1750 and 1860 (or even prior to 1750) and have a proven continuity of woodland cover for at least 150 years.

Landscape Value

The woodland occupies a prominent position in what is an open rolling landscape dominated by intensive agriculture. It is particularly visible from the north and the village of Strathkinness, where it forms an attractive feature in the landscape. It is also very visible from the B939 St. Andrews to Pitscottie road, which passes 200 m to the north.

3. WOODLAND DESCRIPTION

Woodland Compartments

The woodland has been divided into five compartments numbered C1-C5 for ease of management. These range in size from 1.29 ha to 3.94 ha, and are based on existing boundaries or features, such as paths, and on the nature and characteristics of the growing stock. Three compartments have been further sub-divided to take account of particular site features. The compartment boundaries are illustrated on Plan 3 and a full compartment description provided in Appendix 1. The area breakdown by compartment is as follows:

Compartment 1 – 1.29 ha

Compartment 2 – 2.56 ha

Compartment 3 – 1.57 ha

Compartment 4 – 2.41 ha

Compartment 5 – 3.94 ha

Total area 11.77 ha

General Description

The woodland consists predominantly of even-aged birch around 25-35 years in age, with a mature strip of beech and oak (C3) along the western boundary. Several isolated mature conifers are scattered throughout C5, as is a suppressed understory of Sitka spruce. The birch woodland is very uniform and homogenous in appearance.

Historically, the site was planted with a commercial crop of conifers, comprising mostly of Scots pine. The crop suffered badly from windblow in the great gale of 1968 and the damage was such that it was subsequently clearfelled shortly after. It was replanted with Sitka spruce, though this failed and prolific natural regeneration of birch colonized the site. A handful of surviving individuals from the gale of 1968 still exist in C5. Scattered clumps

and groups of heavily suppressed and failing Sitka spruce are all that remains of the replanting attempt.

With the exception of a small area of open under the power line, the site is completely wooded, with stocking levels of 95-100%. The composition of the tree cover is illustrated on Plan 3 and the area breakdown of the two distinct types of woodland and open ground is as follows:

Semi-mature birch woodland	9.85 ha	84%
Mature broadleaved woodland	1.57 ha	13%
Open ground	0.35 ha	3 %

Total **11.77 ha**

Birch Woodland

Birch is by far the dominant species within this woodland type and accounts for approximately 95% of the tree cover. The balance of species is made up of goat willow and sycamore, which, like the birch, have arisen through natural colonization. Older specimens of Sitka spruce, western red cedar, Lawson cypress and Scots pine are scattered throughout as occasional trees, especially in C5. Some older broadleaves including beech, birch and goat willow also occur as isolated trees in C2 and C5.

The birch is very even-aged at around 25-35 years. It is generally of reasonable quality with straight, single stems and narrow, light crowns and creates an open and attractive wooded environment. No significant health or windblow problems were noted, and growth appears reasonably vigorous. Selective thinning of the birch took place in 1992 and the arisings left in situ. This has been beneficial in opening up the canopy and removing weak and suppressed trees to create a well-spaced stand of good quality. Average dbh of the birch is 13 cm, with a range of 9-20 cm. Value in terms of utilizable timber is, at present, minimal.

Mature Broadleaves

These occupy a strip of variable width along the western boundary (C5) and account for 1.57 ha, or 13% of the tree cover. It consists principally of beech, which accounts for around 80% of the tree cover within this woodland type. The balance is made up of oak (15%) with occasional alder (5%) adjacent to the drains in the southwest corner of the site. Several dead elms are present in the extreme northwest corner

The trees are generally mature and even-aged. They are estimated to be in the region of 80-110 years in age, and appear to be of planted origin. Individual tree quality is very variable, with some good individual specimens of oak and beech. A number of trees, however, are in poor health and condition and are potentially dangerous. This is largely the result of extensive decay on the main stem. Many of the trees, and in particular the large oaks, have large deadwood in their crowns. The trees are subject to the full force of the prevailing westerly winds and all show symptoms of exposure. Several are partially windblown and leaning. The trees require remedial attention to make them safe in view of the public access.

Eight Irish yew trees surround the monument to Archbishop Sharp. These are in excess of 100 years in age and were clearly planted to frame and enclose the monument. The existing layout of the tree in relation to the monument is shown on Plan 5.

Species Composition

The woodland exhibits very limited species diversity, and is dominated by a single species, the native silver birch. The overall species composition is as follows:

Silver birch	90%
Beech	5%
Other broadleaves*	3%
Conifers**	2%

* - Oak, sycamore, alder, goat willow

** - scots pine, sitka spruce, western red cedar, lawson cypress

Native, broadleaved trees predominate. Species non-native to the area account for only a very small percentage (approximately 7%) of the tree cover and include the beech, sycamore and conifers.

Age Structure

The age structure of the woodland as a whole falls into two distinct, even-aged categories. The birch is approximately 25-35 years in age and the mature beech and oak in the region of 100-120 years. Structural diversity is therefore very limited.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim

To manage Magus Muir Wood on a sound and sustainable basis for the benefit of the local community

Objectives

It is intended that management of the woodland will fulfill a number of main objectives. These are set out below under various headings.

a. Woodland Management

- Manage the woodland in a sensitive and sustainable manner
- Develop the woodland on a multipurpose basis to take account of recreation, wildlife, landscape and timber production
- Promote and encourage diversity in terms of species composition and age structure
- To maintain and promote the native, broadleaved character of the woodland

- Minimize risk to public safety
- Produce utilizable timber where appropriate

b. Landscape

- Maintain and enhance the woodland as an attractive feature in the wider landscape

c. Recreation

- Maintain and improve facilities for public access throughout the woodland
- Provide and improve signage and interpretive facilities
- Develop the educational potential of the woodland
- Protect and enhance the historical aspect

d. Wildlife Conservation

- Enhance the nature conservation value of the woodland by creating a wider diversity of habitats
- Enhance the biodiversity of the site in line with the Fife Local Biodiversity Plan

e. Community Involvement

- Actively involve local communities and organisations in the management of the woodland

5. MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

a) Long Term Woodland Strategy

It is proposed to manage the woodland on a continual cover basis to meet a broad range of objectives. This will ensure that the majority of the site will remain wooded at any one time, thereby minimizing visual and environmental disruption to the area. A combination of selective thinning and the opening up of small glades (group felling) will encourage natural regeneration and provide opportunities for replanting and the introduction of a wider range of native tree species. Implemented across the site over a long time scale, this approach will gradually transform the woodland from an even-aged monoculture to attractive native woodland with enhanced age structure and species diversity.

The main woodland objectives are therefore to:

- Retain continuity of woodland cover by adopting a sustainable, continuous cover woodland regime. An ongoing programme of selective thinning coupled with group felling and regeneration will bring about a more uneven age structure where all developmental stages are represented
- Maintain the predominantly native character of the woodland, retaining birch as the principle species. Gradually remove the coniferous element, with the exception of yew, Scots pine and specimen trees
- Introduce a wider range of native species to the area to enhance diversity
- Control potentially invasive exotic species, such as sycamore
- Utilise and promote natural regeneration where possible

- Retain the strip of mature broadleaves (Compartment 3) for as long as it is safe to do so, under planting with native broadleaves to replace the mature trees

b) Thinning and Felling

Thinning will be carried out selectively on a rotational basis throughout the birch woodland (Compartments 1, 2, 4 and 5). This will seek to remove poor and suppressed trees and retain dominant specimens of superior form and health. Thinning intensity will vary throughout each compartment to create a matrix of varying tree density. Where thinning intensity is heavy, natural regeneration will be encouraged and opportunities for under planting provided.

Group felling within the birch woodland will seek to create glades approximately 22 m in diameter (0.15 ha) within which natural regeneration or planting can take place. These will be scattered randomly and evenly throughout each compartment and will focus on existing gaps in the canopy, or where there is already evidence of advance natural regeneration. It is envisaged that initially around 3-5 groups will be created within each compartment (see Plan 3). These will be slowly enlarged with the passage of time and new groups initiated, to ultimately create a matrix of growth in varying stages of development across the site as a whole.

In the case of the mature broadleaves (C3), potentially dangerous trees in poor health and condition will be made safe for reasons of public safety. Rather than fell these to ground level, where appropriate, surgery works will remove the upper portion of the crown to retain a large standing stump for wildlife habitat. Dead wood will also be retained on the ground. Remedial tree surgery will be necessary where large dead wood overhangs the main footpaths. All surgery works will be carried out by a competent arboriculturalist to British Standard 3998 "Recommendations for Tree Work (1991)".

Markets will be sought for the products of thinning and felling operations. Income generated from this will, however, be very modest in the short to medium term and unlikely to cover the costs involved. Community use of the timber will be investigated as the preferred option.

c) Species

The broadleaved character of the woodland will be retained and the coniferous element gradually removed during thinning operations. The exception to this will be the several mature Scots pine, cypress and the yews surrounding the monument, which will be retained. The small invading element of non-native sycamore will also be gradually removed and its presence strictly controlled. The mature beech, which form a significant element of the tree cover and are important in landscape terms, will be retained as long as it is safe to do so. A greater range of species native to the area will gradually be introduced to enhance diversity. This will include the following species:

Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>)	Gean (<i>Prunus avium</i>)
Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Bird cherry (<i>Prunus padus</i>)
Aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>)	Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)
Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)	Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>)

These may be introduced by planting following thinning operations, in the glades created by the group felling, and under planting the mature beech area (C3). Oak, ash and birch will ultimately form the principle species, with the remaining species in smaller amounts suited to site conditions. Natural regeneration of native species will be encouraged and promoted where possible. Native shrubs will also be introduced to enhance ground cover and biodiversity. These will include:

Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)
Broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)
Guelder rose (<i>Viburnum opulus</i>)	Dog rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>)
Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>)

d) Replanting

New native species, as noted above, will be introduced by planting. This will utilise cell grown stock from a known native source, approximately 30-50 cm in height. A local tree nursery at SRUC Elmwood could be used as part of the horticulture courses run there. These will be planted in an informal and random layout within the areas to be planted at an average spacing of 2.5 m (1600 trees/ha) and protected within 1.0 m tree shelters to aid establishment and future maintenance. Chemical weed control using an approved herbicide in line with Forestry Commission Scotland's Field Book 8 (1991) will be carried out as necessary.

e) Public Access and Recreation

The main footpath loop (1200 m) to the monument will be regraded and the drainage improved, as will the secondary footpaths (600 m). Information panels will be updated. The monument to Archbishop Sharp will be protected and enhanced. Invading trees within the immediate vicinity of the monument will be felled and eight Irish yew trees (*Taxus baccata* "fastigiata") planted where gaps exist in the original planting, with the intention of restoring the original design and layout (see Plan 5).

Community involvement and participation will be promoted through Strathkinness Community Council in conjunction with Fife Council.

f) Nature Conservation

Maintaining and enhancing the nature conservation value of the site is an important objective of management. In general terms, the management regime advocated will improve the conservation value in that it promotes continual tree cover, greater age and structural diversity and native broadleaved trees. Aiming for long term stability and a matrix of different age classes will ensure that the ecological value of the woodland is protected and enhanced in line with the "Fife Local Biodiversity Action Plan" (2013) and the Forestry Commission Scotland's "Forest Nature Conservation Guidelines" (1990).

Specific conservation techniques will be employed throughout the woodland as appropriate. These include the following:

- Open ground – the nature and distribution of open ground within and around the woodland is an important factor in determining the richness of wildlife. Approximately 8-10% of the site will be retained as open ground. In practical terms, this will largely include paths, rides, drains, glades, edge scalloping and compartment 4a, which will be left to develop naturally.
- Edge habitat – the transition zone between open land and woodland is particularly valuable in providing a high degree of structural diversity. The rather straight and formal external woodland boundary and the internal paths will be improved by slight scalloping to create a more “natural” edge. This work will be an integral part of thinning and felling operations for each compartment.
- Water habitat – the small burn which runs through the north east of the site will be managed to avoid excessive shading by trees and to encourage the development of bankside vegetation. This will be in line with the Forestry Commission Scotland’s “Forests and Water Guidelines” (1993).
- Dead trees and fallen timber – dead and decaying timber, both standing and fallen, provide a valuable habitat for a wide range of fungal, invertebrate and animal species. Provision will be made for retaining a high proportion of such material. Retaining standing dead trees will be most feasible in the less frequented areas of the woodland, away from the main path network. Where public safety is a consideration, dead or dangerous trees will be made safe by judicious pruning or topping, while retaining the bulk of the standing trunk in a safe form.

- Nest boxes – bird and bat boxes will be erected in appropriate location

g) Education

The site is already used by several schools and nurseries as part of formal or informal “Forest Schools” activities. There have also been guided walks carried out on the site in the past, covering a range of topics from biology to history. It is envisaged that education for all should be encouraged and facilities provided to enhance the experience.

Links should be developed with local schools, St Andrews Botanic Gardens, St Andrews University and SRUC Elmwood.

- Provide and promote resources for educational visits by school children from all age groups. These would include risk assessments, work sheets and trained staff to manage the visits
- Provide a secure shelter to store educational materials, tools, etc and to act as shelter in bad weather for school groups, especially nurseries. This would be ideally situated in the quieter area of the woodland (C2) with a very understated access path to enhance the children’s sense of being in the wild and to discourage abuse.
- Develop links with local higher education and further education institutions to make use of their expertise in surveying and practical work with their students. The wood would be an ideal teaching resource for a range of tertiary level courses. Students could develop their practical skills while helping with the site management.

h) General Management

Ongoing management of the site will be necessary, particularly in view of the high provision of public access. This will include the following:

- **Litter removal** – the regular removal of litter from the car park area and throughout the woodland

- **Footpath maintenance** – to ensure footpaths are maintained to a high standard. Repaired and upgraded as necessary and maintenance of the car park.
- **Signs and interpretation panels** – provision and maintenance thereof (see Plan 4)
- **Safety inspections** – regular inspections to ensure that the site does not present any hazard to users and identifying and making safe where appropriate, dead and dangerous trees. This is especially important where they are close to the footpath network.
- **Drain maintenance** – clean out the drainage system and maintain in good working order as required
- **Boundary maintenance** – maintain integrity of boundaries, as required

6. PROGRAMME OF OPERATIONS

A programme of operations is provided for a five year period. This sets out the recommended work to be carried out in each compartment each year. The most urgent tasks have been prioritised and the work spread out through time and space to minimize disruption to the site, and ease cash flow. It essentially operates on a five year rolling programme, with each of the five woodland compartments being attended to in rotation.

Initially, work will commence on making the woodland safe, especially within C3, and improving park facilities and public access. Thinning and re-structuring of the birch woodland will commence in year 2, dealing with one compartment each year, until the conclusion of the initial five year plan period. By the end of the five year programme, work will have been carried out throughout the entire woodland, and will have made a significant impact in bringing it into active and planned management. Detailed proposals are set out for each year in Sections 6a – 6f and summarised in Section 6g.

The work programme will be reviewed annually and brought forward on a rolling cycle.

YEAR 1

Compartment	Operation
C 3, 4, 5	Make safe dead and dangerous trees, top beech and dead elm. Fell windblown birch and willow near footpaths. Cut up and clear dead wood from footpath.
C 3	Replant where canopy is open with appropriate species, especially the Northeast corner. 250 trees approximately, see mix from list above.
C 4, 5	Repair drainage and surfacing to footpath network, remove any vegetation encroaching onto path surface. Footpath surface repairs should scrape back to the membrane, reinstate with type 1 aggregate and re dress with whin dust. Appropriate ditch clearance, cross drains and soak aways built, 300 yds of path approximately.
C 2	Replace bridge to compartment 2 for use by school groups.
C 4,5	Use volunteer groups to remove sycamore regrowth.
General	Contact potential local partner organisations (SRUC, St Andrews Botanic Gardens, University of St Andrews, local schools, Fife Council etc). Set up programme of events, walks and education resources. Purchase appropriate tools and survey equipment. Investigate permission and funding for storage shed/shelter.

Replace damaged signs and car park barriers near entrance.

Clear burn.

Carry out safety checks on trees and infrastructure.

YEAR 2

Compartment	Operation
C 5	Fell a total of 0.75ha of woodland, focused around any non-native species or suppressed birch.
C 2,5	Encourage regrowth in cleared areas or replant with appropriate species from list above, 750 trees approximately.
C 3	Maintain replanting from previous year, (beat up, weed kill, shelter maintenance).
C 5	Selectively thin 1.5Ha of suppressed birch, non-native species.
C 5	Use volunteer groups to remove sycamore regrowth.
C 4, 5	Organise bio-blitz event and carry out survey of ground vegetation.
General	Carry out safety checks on trees and infrastructure. Construct storage shed/shelter. Set up programme of events, walks and education resources. Update and replace interpretive panels.

YEAR 3

Compartment	Operation
C 4	Fell a total of 0.5ha of woodland, focused around any non-native species or suppressed birch.
C 4	Encourage regrowth in cleared areas or replant with appropriate species from list above, 500 trees approximately.
C 3, 5	Maintain replanting from previous year, (beat up, weed kill, shelter maintenance).
C 4	Selectively thin 1.5Ha of suppressed birch, non-native species.
C 4	Use volunteer groups to remove sycamore regrowth.
C 1, 2	Organise bio blitz event and carry out survey of ground vegetation.
General	Carry out safety checks on trees and infrastructure. Set up programme of events, walks and education resources.

YEAR 4

Compartment	Operation
C 1, 2	Fell a total of 0.5ha of woodland, focused around any non-native species or suppressed birch.
C 1, 2	Encourage regrowth in cleared areas or replant with appropriate species from list above, 500 trees approximately.
C 3, 4, 5	Maintain replanting from previous year, (beat up, weed kill, shelter maintenance).
C 1, 2	Selectively thin 1.5Ha of suppressed birch, non-native species.
C 1, 2	Use volunteer groups to remove sycamore regrowth.
C 1, 2	Organise bio blitz event and carry out survey of ground vegetation.
General	Carry out safety checks on trees and infrastructure. Set up programme of events, walks and education resources.

YEAR 5

Compartment	Operation
C 1, 2, 4, 5	Fell a total of 0.5ha of woodland, focused around any non-native species or suppressed birch.
C 1, 2, 4, 5	Encourage regrowth in cleared areas or replant with appropriate species from list above, 500 trees approximately.
C 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Maintain replanting from previous year, (beat up, weed kill, shelter maintenance).
C 1, 2, 4, 5	Selectively thin 1.5Ha of suppressed birch, non-native species.
C 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Use volunteer groups to remove sycamore regrowth.
C 3	Organise bio blitz event and carry out survey of ground vegetation.
General	Carry out safety checks on trees and infrastructure. Set up programme of events, walks and education resources.

Summary of Outputs for Initial 5 Year Plan

Over the first five year period the quantifiable management outputs will be-

- 2.25ha of even age birch woodland selectively felled.
- 6ha of even aged woodland selectively thinned.
- 2.5ha of replanting of native trees, 2500 trees in total.
- 300yds of footpath repaired and drainage improved.
- Car park signage and infrastructure repaired.
- 3 interpretation panels updated and installed.
- Dangerous trees made safe.
- Main burn cleared out.
- New educational resources created, 3 worksheets each for early years, P 4-5, P 6-7 created.
- Creation of photographic database.
- 5 bio-blitz surveys and secondary survey results sent to Fife Nature.
- New storage shed/shelter provided for volunteers and school groups.
- Replacement bridge to provide safe access for school groups to **C 2**.

Appendix 1, Compartment Description.

Compartment 1 – Area 1.29 ha

An even-aged stand of birch, approximately 25-35 years in age with occasional goat willow, beech and sycamore present throughout. Average dbh 15 cm. Stocking, 95%. Average spacing, 1.7-2.0 m. Selectively thinned 1992. The trees are generally of good form and quality.

Compartment 2 – Area 2.56 ha

An even-aged stand of birch, approximately 25-25 years in age with occasional goat willow and sycamore present throughout. Average dbh 11 cm. Stocking, 95%. Average spacing, 1.7-2.0 m. Selectively thinned 1992. The trees are generally of good form and quality.

Compartment 3 – Area 1.57 ha

A mature belt of broadleaved trees on western boundary, predominantly of beech. This accounts for 80% of the tree cover, with oak (15%) and alder (5%) making up the balance. Even aged and mature, at around 95-125 years in age. Diameter very variable. Stocking 95%. The canopy cover is almost complete, with only few gaps where several elm trees have died in the Northwest corner. The tree condition is very variable. There are some good individual specimens of beech and oak. Other trees are in poor condition with serious decay problems and potentially dangerous where over footpath. All trees showing effects of exposed location and many with significant deadwood in crown.

Compartment 3a – Area 0.1 ha

A small semi-ornamental area immediately surrounding Archbishop Sharp's monument, it includes monument and eight mature and well-established yew trees that enclose it. The yews were clearly planted at the same time and it is estimated that they are in the region of 115-145 years in age. They are suffering from exposure and have relatively poorly formed and tatty crowns. Several trees have invaded naturally over the years, and are now well established.

Compartment 4 – Area 2.41 ha

An even-aged stand of birch, approximately 25-35 years in age with occasional goat willow and sycamore present throughout. Average dbh 15 cm. Stocking, 95%. Average spacing, 1.7-2.0 m. Selectively thinned 1992. The trees are generally of good form and quality.

Compartment 4a – Area 0.35 ha

An area of open ground to west of covered reservoir where the ground vegetation consists of well-established gorse with strong, young natural regeneration of goat willow over most of the area.

Compartment 5 – Area 3.94 ha

An even-aged stand of birch, approximately 25-35 years in age with occasional goat willow and sycamore present throughout. Average dbh 15 cm. Stocking 95%. Average spacing, 1.7-2.0 m. Selectively thinned 1992. The trees are generally of good form and quality.

There is some coniferous element consisting of semi-mature specimens of Scots pine, red cedar and Lawson cypress scattered throughout, especially towards eastern portion. These mostly occur as single trees. A single mature beech and several mature birches are also present. The remains of an understory of Sitka spruce present across approximately 60% of the site. This is the remnant of a previous but failed attempt to plant, and the trees are very suppressed and stunted with limited future potential.