

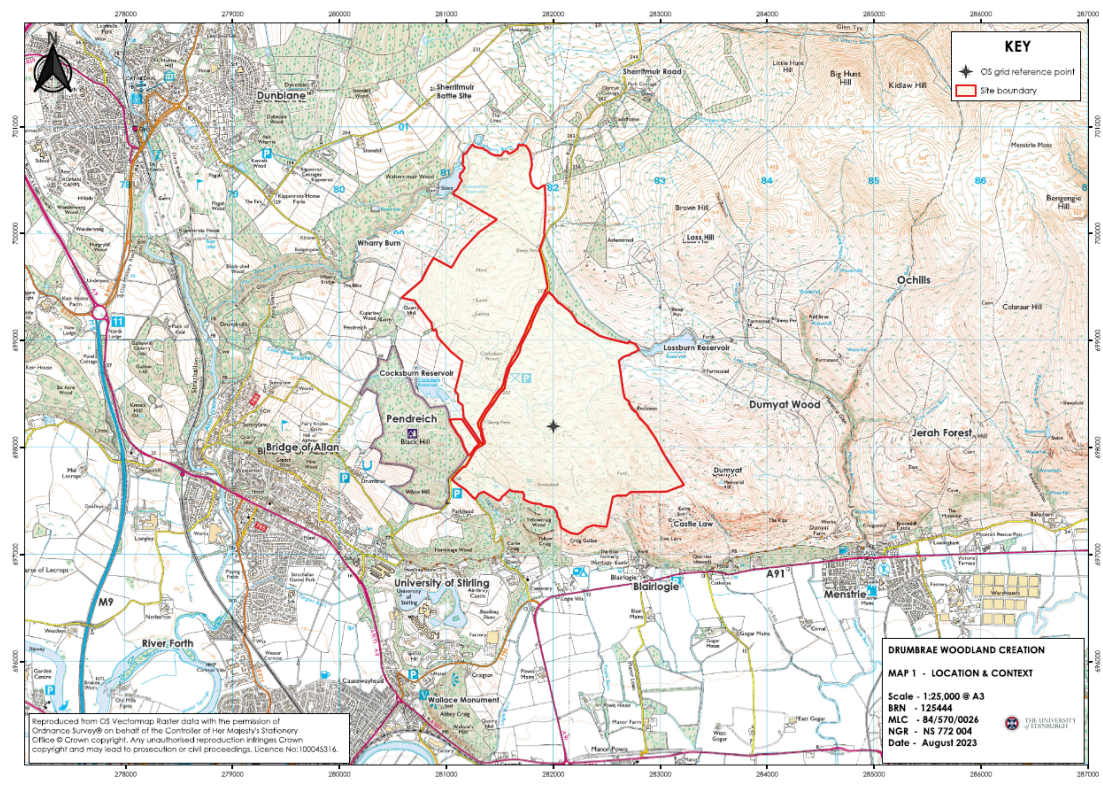


Drumrae woodland creation proposals

The University of Edinburgh has produced draft proposals for a woodland creation scheme at Drumrae, by Bridge of Allan.

The views of local communities and site users are being sought to inform the development of the project.







Context

The **Scottish Government** supports woodland creation as part of future land use in Scotland. This will contribute to:

- **Climate action** (carbon sequestration – 18,000 ha of new woodland per annum by 2024/25)
- Achieving **biodiversity** targets
- Securing a **Sustainable Supply of Wood Products** to the Scottish forestry industry

Drumrae is within the Central Scotland Green Network area, and the locality is identified as having ‘potential’ for woodland creation in the Stirling Forestry and Woodland Strategy.

It also lies within the Forth Climate Forest, which aims to increase woodland cover by 8,300 hectares by 2033.

- The Scheme will be progressed through the **Forestry Grant Scheme** and submitted to Scottish Forestry for their approval.



Objectives

Woodland-related benefits

- Climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration
- Maximising ecological benefits
- Enhancing recreational usage for the benefit of local communities
- Improving the landscape and enshrining views
- Protecting and promoting cultural heritage features

Delivery of Wider Benefits

- Educational and research opportunities for the University and local schools, colleges, community groups and researchers.
- Opportunities to create new habitats, such as flowering plants that benefit pollinators
- Building links to neighbouring habitats to provide resilience for species such as red squirrels



Design and application process

The design process has included specialist survey and assessment of:

- **Soils and peat**
 - All identified areas of deep peat have been excluded from the planting area
 - No ploughing is proposed as part of this application
- **Habitats, birds and animals**
 - An independent specialist Habitats, Birds and Protected Species Survey has been carried out as part of this application.
 - Any habitats of identified regional and local interest will be protected and retained in open ground.
 - New habitats will be created, notably through establishment of new native and riparian woodlands and through positive management of open ground habitats.



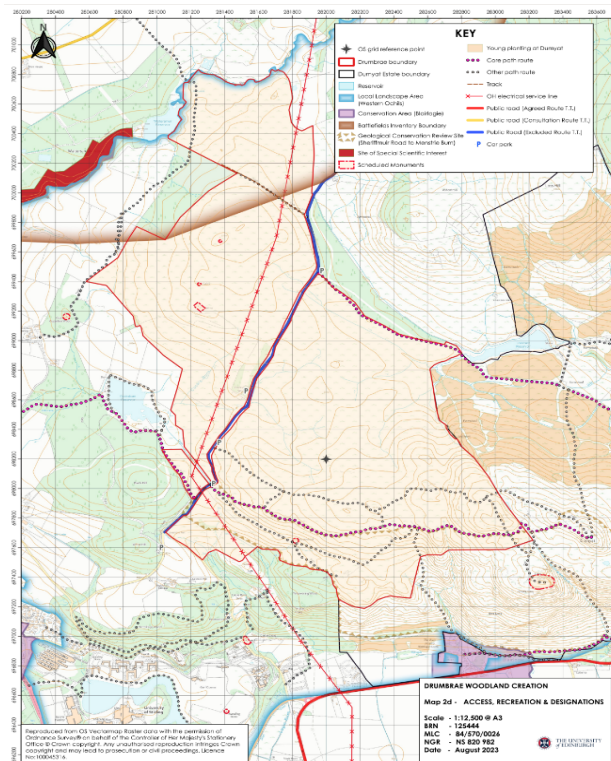
Design and application process

The design process has included specialist survey and assessment of:

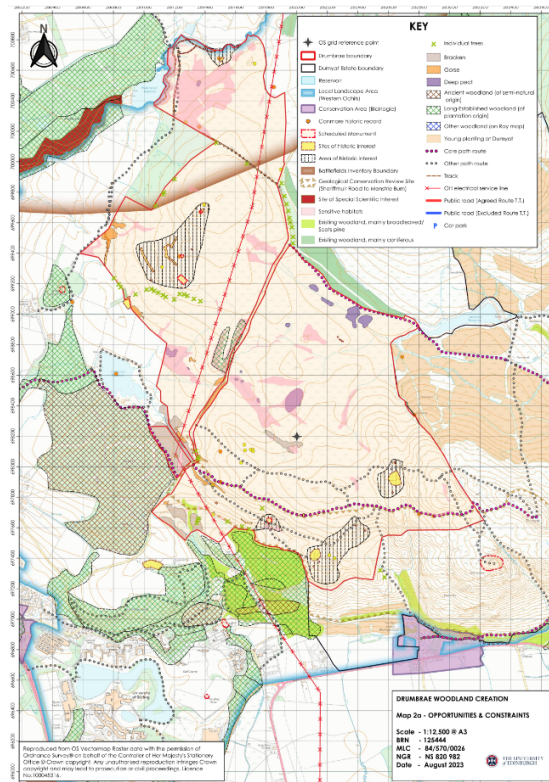
- **Archaeology**
 - All identified features of interest will be protected as recommended by the independent specialist report
 - On-site interpretation will be installed
- **Landscape**
 - The woodland has been designed to fit with the local topography and to include a range of native and traditional woodland types and open ground, including protecting important geological features.
 - Some of the more elevated areas of the woodland, have been proposed as a mixture of low density native broadleaves and open ground to help fit the woodland in the landscape.
 - Visual perspectives have been produced to provide an indication how iconic views are protected and impact on views.

Copies of these specialist surveys and visualisations are available to view at this consultation event

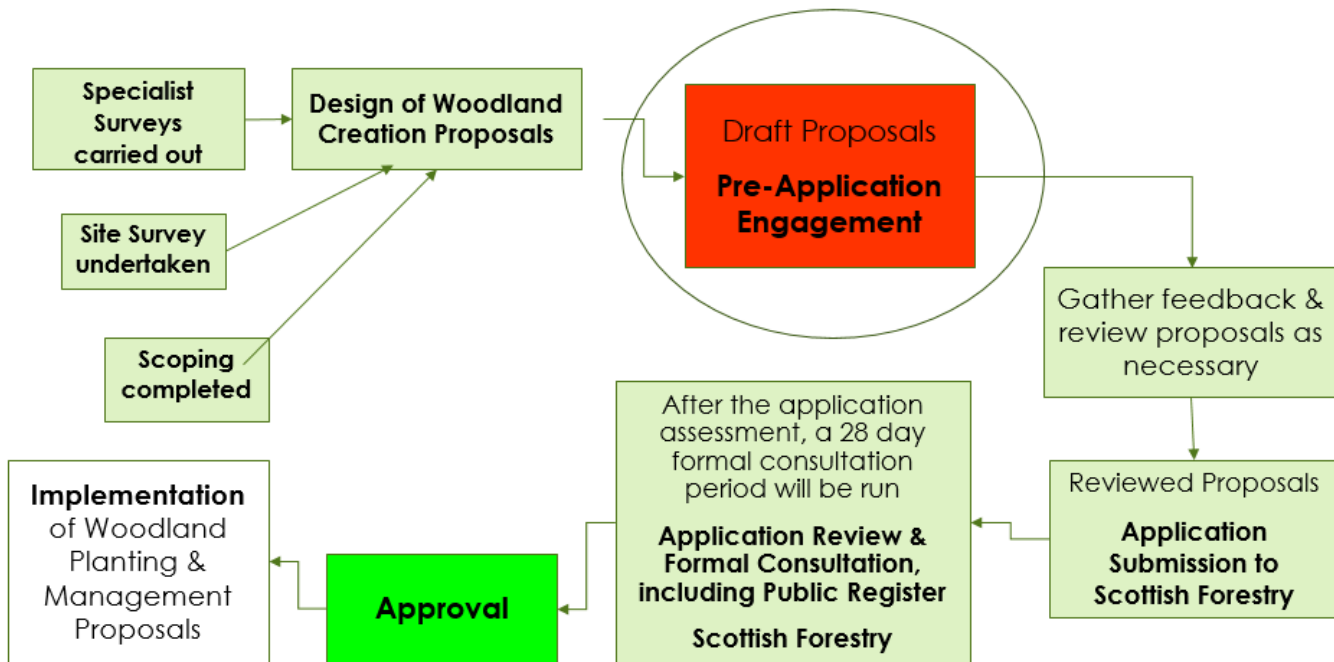
Recreation and access



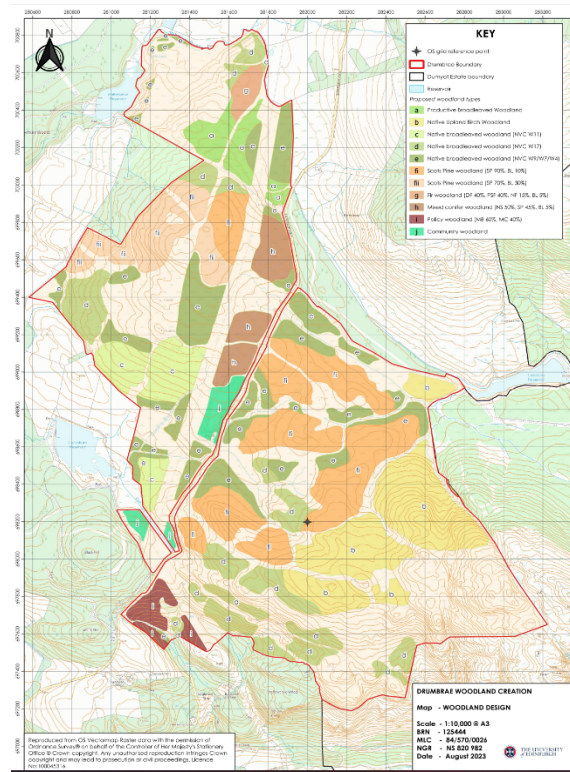
Opportunities & Constraints



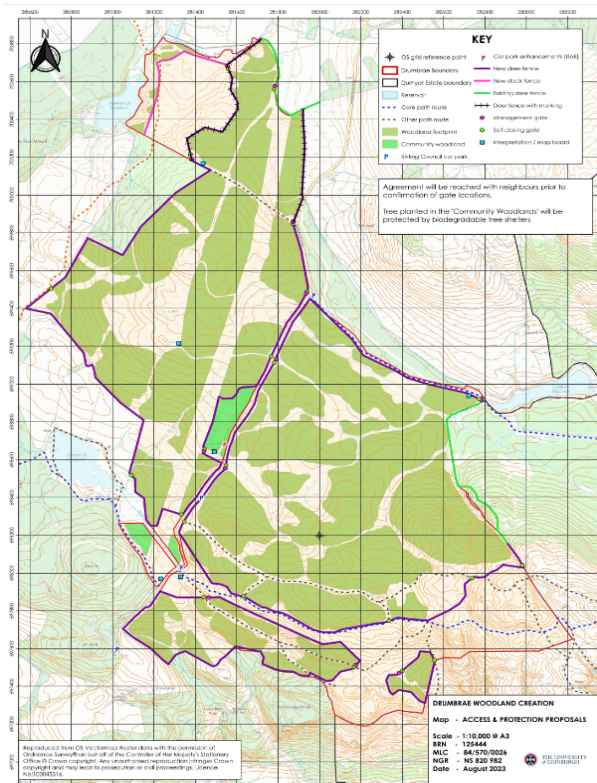
Design and application process



Design - Woodland



Design -Access





Proposal summary

Total site area	431 ha	100%
Planted	237 ha	55%
Conservation grazing	16 ha	4%
Open	178 ha	41%
Total planting area	237 ha	100%
Native broadleaves	144 ha	61%
Mixed woodland	6 ha	4%
Scots Pine mix	71 ha	30%
Diverse conifer mix	15 ha	6%



Proposal summary

- 237 ha of woodland, covering 55% of the site, will be created
- All broadleaved woodland will be of native species
- Most of the coniferous element will be Scots pine, however other species such as Norway spruce and Douglas fir will be used as a diverse conifer element in the more fertile lower slopes and more visible parts of the site
- The main path to Dumyat will be remain open and key views will not be obscured by the planting
- Most of the planting will be protected by deer fences, avoiding use of plastic tree shelters
- Access will be available throughout the woodlands, self-closing gates for recreation access to be provided where needed



Other information

Timing

- If approval is granted by Scottish Forestry, woodland establishment works would be likely to be undertaken in winter 2024/25.

Agriculture

- There will be no loss of any arable or improved grassland.
- Conservation grazing will be undertaken to maintain botanical interest.

Employment

- There will be no negative impact on agricultural employment, and there will be an increase in forestry/environmental employment.

Woodlands

- Woodland cover within a 10km radius will increase from 17.8% to 18.6%



How to comment

Your questions, comments and feedback on the proposals are welcome.

You can fill-in a feedback form using the postcard provided, or by completing the online survey: [Drumbrae | The University of Edinburgh](#) from 28th August

Should you wish further information, please contact:

- **Forest and Peatlands Team in the Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability**
- **University of Edinburgh**
- Email: SRS.Department@ed.ac.uk

A note of all comments received will be passed on to Scottish Forestry, along with details of any design amendments proposed. If you wish to copy Scottish Forestry into your correspondence, their contact details are:

**Scottish Forestry, Perth and Argyll Conservancy, Upper Battleby, Redgorton,
Perth PH1 3EN (panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot)**

Details and maps can be found in: [Drumbrae | The University of Edinburgh](#)
