APPENDIX 7.1: WOODLAND REPORT

1. WOODLAND REPORT

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Woodland Report accompanies **Volume 2, Chapter 7: Forestry**, and details the current baseline in terms of describing the woodland type (including species, condition, current management), and future management under reference to the Land Management Plans (LMPs) where available. The Woodland Report contains the detailed assessment of impacts likely to result from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Future management proposals have been designed in conjunction with relevant landowners / forest managers to create a resilient and sustainable long-term forest management system.

1.2 Woodland Characteristics

1.2.1 Woodland Area 1 is accessed from the unclassified C1S road (see **Volume 3, Figure 1.1: Site Boundary**). This commercial conifer plantation contains Sitka spruce and larch. The forest is managed as per the Long-Term Forest Plan (LTFP) case ref 4892508.

1.2.2 For Woodlands 2-16, the majority of the woodland is made up of mature native hedgerows, with the main species being hawthorn, alder, Guelder rose and hazel. There are areas of mature native broadleaves and windblown commercial species around the derelict farmyard and house. These include sycamore, beech, ash, elm, willow and Sitka spruce.

1.2.3 This section should be read in conjunction with **Volume 3, Figure 7.1: Felling Requirements**.

Woodland 1

1.2.4 Sitka spruce and larch growing on peaty podzols on generally wet ground conditions, good uniform growth within the crop. Crop is approximately 15-20 years old. Creation of a green edge along the proposed felling boundary will not require additional felling. The age and form of the crop will be sufficient to maintain a wind firm edge to ensure stability of the remaining crop.

1.2.5 The LTFP shows no felling planned before 2026.

Woodlands 2-9

1.2.6 Approximately 1.73 hectares (ha) of mature native hedgerows. Double row planted and fenced. Main species include hawthorn, alder, Guelder rose, blackthorn, and hazel.

Woodlands 10 and 11

1.2.7 Mature sycamore, Wych elm and willow individual trees located at ruined steading. Some establishing sycamore regeneration. Located along overgrown field drains.

Woodlands 12-16

1.2.8 A mix of overgrown and windblown Sitka spruce and larch shelterbelts, mature broadleaves including ash, sycamore and beech. Significant amount of establishing willow and beech natural regeneration throughout farm holding.

1.2.9 The area around the old farmhouse has become an overgrown garden including a mature beech hedge and mature specimens of beech, sycamore and ash.

1.3 Development Requirements

1.3.1 Woodland 1 has an existing access point on the unclassified C1S. Existing farm tracks run north to south along woodlands 7 and 10-16. Tree felling and timber extraction will be able to utilise these existing tracks, prior to any construction activity.

1.3.2 Stump removal and residue mulching will be required within the entire Site.

1.4 Wind Blow Risk

1.4.1 There is a low wind blow risk across much of the woodland (wind throw hazard class assessed at 1). As detailed in Section 1.2, Woodland 1 is to be opened to create a green edge, as the trees are smaller due to age then the wind blow risk is reduced along with the requirement for additional felling to wind firm boundaries.

1.5 Woodland Management Impact

1.5.1 UKHab and NVC surveys have been undertaken of the Site and surrounding area (further detail provided in **Volume 2, Chapter 9: Ecology, Nature Conservation and Ornithology**). A working buffer of 10 m should be created within Woodland 1, to ensure safe future working within the woodland.

1.5.2 The total loss of Native Broadleaved woodland (including hedgerows) resulting from the Proposed Development is 1.94 ha.

1.6 Mitigation Opportunities

Restructuring

1.6.1 Woodland 1 will continue to be managed as per the LTFP, regardless of development felling. It is recognised that the Proposed Development will result in felling being brought forward. This felling will create a new green edge, allowing the landowner to carry out future clear fell more safely in proximity to the Proposed Development.

Restocking

1.6.2 Restocking will be carried out by the landowner in all areas outwith the Site with suitable species to continue the commercial viability of the forest.

1.7 Nett Effect / Summary

Table 1-1 Nett Loss of Woodland

Woodlands	Operational Requirements
1	Clear fell all standing commercial trees– SS / L – 2.15 ha
2-9	Mulch all native trees – 1.73 ha
10-16	Clear fell native trees – 0.21 ha
Total	4.4 ha
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting / regeneration	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	4.4 ha

1.8 Compensatory Planting

1.8.1 The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 4.4 ha.

1.8.2 In order to provide a greater balance limiting long term impacts on forestry interests it is proposed that the majority of this woodland loss is compensated via offsite compensatory planting. It is proposed that full details

of the areas subject to this compensatory planting is notified to Scottish Forestry prior to construction of the Proposed Development.

1.8.3 See **Volume 4, Appendix 7.2: Compensatory Planting Strategy**, for further detail on the compensatory planting.

ANNEX A: SITE PHOTOS

Photo 1: Healthy, uniform crop of Sitka spruce and larch (Woodland 1)

Photo 2: Stable even-aged crop of Sitka spruce and larch (Woodland 1)

Photo 3: Native, scrub woodland along roadside, unaffected by felling (Woodland 1)

Photo 4: Mature hedgerow, approx. 8-10 years old (Woodland 2-9)

Photo 5: Mature sycamore, Wych elm and willow (Woodland 10 and 11)

Photo 6: Looking north to the derelict farmyard, overgrown shelterbelts and natural regeneration willow and beech (Woodland 12-16)

Photo 7: Significant windblow damage to Sitka spruce and larch shelterbelts (Woodland 12-16)

Photo 8: Mature ash and sycamore with significant natural regeneration throughout the farmyard (Woodland 12-16)

Photo 9: Overgrown beech hedge within farmyard and gardens (Woodland 12-16)