



Urban Woodland Management Plan (UWMP) Details			
UWMP Name:	Maryburgh Community Woodland Management Plan 2024 to 2034		
Business Reference Number:	351935	Main Location Code:	91/761/0306
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NH537561	Nearest town or locality:	Maryburgh
Local Authority:	Highland Council		
Management Plan area (hectares):	3.69		

Owner's Details			
Title:	Mrs	Forename:	Catriona
Surname:	Berry		
Organisation:	Maryburgh Amenities Company	Position:	Director
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	maryburghcommunitywoodland@gmail.com		
Address:	1st Floor Robertson House, Shore Street, Inverness		
Postcode:	IV1 1NF	Country:	UK

Agent's Details	
Title:	
Surname:	
Organisation:	
Primary Contact Number:	
Email:	
Address:	
Postcode:	

Access Consent – Complete if applying for thinning

You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable.



Urban Woodland Management Plan

Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
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Town and Country Planning – Complete if applying for thinning

Are any of the trees to be felled subject to a Tree Preservation Order?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
If YES please provide details: <p>TPO Dunglass Road HRC28 Approved hazard tree felling permission ref RC/11/F/1 (NR618) dated 14March 2023 authorises tree works Further tree works within this plan not currently covered by the above permission will secure additional approvals from the Highland Council prior to carrying out works within the TPO.</p>		
Are any of the trees to be felled within a Conservation Area?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
If YES please provide details:		

Declarations – Complete if applying for thinning

I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:


- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at www.forestry.gov.scot;
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate;




Urban Woodland Management Plan

- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time.

[This application may only be signed by the owner of the land or the occupier of that land where they have written permission to do so. For land owned by a business it must be signed by someone with the authority to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business. If you are an agent signing this on behalf of the aforementioned you must append a copy of your mandate.]

Signed:	Print:MEGAN PARKER	Date:14/05/2024
		

Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:

Management Plan Reference Number:	23FGS74833		
Plan Period: (ten years) (month/year)	From: 15/05/2024	To: 14/05/2034	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/05/2024

List the maps contained in the management plan

Map Reference	Title	Location (page / appendix)
1	Location	Appendix 2
2	Compartment Map	Appendix 2
4	Concept Map	Appendix 2
NA	Felling	
NA	Planting/ Restructuring	
5	Work Programme	Appendix 2
6	Constraints Map	Appendix 2

Summary of key outputs at end of plan period

Area of woodland accessible to the public (ha)	3.69
Length of footpaths : new or upgrade (km)	0.88
Area of Felling and restructuring (ha)	0
Area of thinning (ha)	0
Other (Area managed through Minimal Intervention-ha)	3.69

1 Introduction

2 Woodland Description

- 2.1 Provide details of any current or previous grants
- 2.2 Description of the woodland in the landscape
- 2.3 History of Management:
- 2.4 Physical site characteristics
- 2.5 Woodland Composition, Structure and Condition
- 2.6 Greenspace and Green Network Context
- 2.7 Recreation Features
- 2.8 Cultural Features
- 2.9 Landscape Features
- 2.10 Biodiversity Features
- 2.11 Water Features
- 2.12 Threats

3 Vision and Objectives

- 3.1 Vision
- 3.2 Management objectives

4 Stakeholder Engagement

5 Analysis and Management Strategy

- 5.1 Constraints and Opportunities Analysis
- 5.2 Management strategy to address with key issues and objectives

6 Management Proposals

- 6.1 Thinning and Felling
- 6.2 Planting / Restocking
- 6.3 Access Improvements
- 6.4 Other Recreational Facilities
- 6.5 Community Perception
- 6.6 Safety and Security
- 6.7 Maintenance

7 Monitoring and Review

Appendix 1 – Work Programme

1 Introduction

This ten-year management plan template is designed for woodlands that are being funded under the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) Urban Woodland Management Plan Grant. The plan is subject to review after five years. This plan template should also be used for all sites where you will be applying for WIG – WIAT or Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) - WIAT grant options. However, for planned new woodlands or woodlands less than 10 years old some sections of this plan will not be applicable.

The submission of this plan will be considered as an application for permission to thin the woodland over the 10 year plan period, subject to the completion of the thinning table in Appendix 2 and the submission of appropriate maps. If you intend to carry out other types of felling you must apply for permission separately.

You should consult with your local Woodland Officer on the plan. When we are happy that the plan meets our requirements we normally consult on the document more widely and place any linked Felling Permission applications, except thinning, on our Public Register for 28 days.

The plan detail will be approved for the first five years (along with a Felling Permission for thinning if appropriate). The second five years will be approved in outline with an expectation that full approval will be sought at the five-year review.

2 Woodland Description

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland's location and character. This should include details about:

- current species and ages
- structure
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interest)
- existing or potential public access

The [Scotland's Environment website](https://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/forestry) can aid you in completing this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: forestry.gov.scot

Please provide a 1:50,000 location map and a 1:10,000 or 1:2,500 scale OS map that shows the boundary of the woodland and compartments and/or sub-compartments. You can include other maps to show the location of woodland attributes listed in the tables below. Please list all maps on page 2.

You may also wish to include a photo record as an appendix to illustrate the character of the woodland and its key features.



2.1 Provide details of any current or previous grants

Grant Type	Contract Ref	Expiry Date
Forestry Commission/Scottish Forestry:		
WGS	None	
SFGS	None	
Forestry Challenge Fund	None	
SRDP Rural Priorities	None	
Other grant bodies		
FGS, WIAT Management Plan	23FGS74833	This is the case reference for this Management Plan, claim year 2023

2.2 Description of the woodland in the landscape

Briefly describe the woodland in the context of the local environment (eg settlements, communications routes, land use & industrial heritage, landscape character).

Outline the unique characteristics of the woodland and visitor experience that will be built upon as part of this plan.

Central Grid Reference NH 537 561

Lat/Long 57° 34' 18.6"N 4° 26' 46.1"W

what3words///skylights.video.trade

Nearest postcode IV7 8ES

The woodland is an irregularly shaped area of amenity land in the small village of Maryburgh, located 13 miles north west of Inverness. A relatively small but diverse woodland, Maryburgh Community Woodland extends to 3.69 ha. It is predominantly a semi-natural woodland of native broadleaf species mixed with exotic specimens dating from the 17th and 18th century. The woodlands sit between two developments, Dunglass Road and Birch Drive, and are easily accessible from Maryburgh village centre. A network of formal and informal paths run through the woodlands and are interconnected to longer local walks through Brahan Estate and along the Connon River.

The woodland was purchased in 2022 by the Maryburgh Amenities Company to ensure this important community asset was not lost to private development.

2.3 History of Management:

Provide a brief statement on ownership and recent management.

Maryburgh Community Woodland, previously known as Dunglass Woodlands, were part of Brahan Estate from the 17th century through to the 1970s when it was purchased by Morrison Construction as part of the Birch Drive development. Following that it was passed to Anglian Water plc from 1989 to 2002 at which time they become Anglian Water Limited and then in 2003 an internal

reorganization handed the land over to the AWG Group Ltd. The land suddenly came up for auction in late 2022 when it was purchased by the Maryburgh Amenities Company (MAC) as a community woodland for the residents of Maryburgh and the wider community.

Historically Dunglass Woodlands were a traditional policy woodland and formed part of a Designed Landscape (Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes as Brahan Estate GDL) around Brahan Castle and the wider estate grounds. It was part of four main boulevards leading to Brahan castle grounds. Since that time the woodlands have been cut off from the remaining Brahan woodlands by village expansion, farming, and other utilities. Half of the woodland is of a younger age class following major water utility works in the 1980s/1990s which now run underneath part of the northeastern woodlands. The other half of the woodlands remain ancient of 'Long Established Plantation Origin'. Natural regeneration of beech and exotic conifers is widespread, limiting understory diversity in places. Main paths are overgrown by shrubs and small trees, impairing public access and path maintenance is also needed to remediate drainage issues and flooding which have eroded surfaces and made paths inaccessible for mobility impaired visitors. This woodland itself has not been actively maintained for a number of decades and dangerous trees are present requiring works to maintain public safety. A small number of dangerous trees were taken down in 2023 but further works will be required. Ongoing regular maintenance will be required to ensure the woodlands remain healthy and resilient moving forward and that the special character of this woodland in its historic setting is not lost while also ensuring public access is maintained.

2.4 Physical site characteristics

Describe the soils, climate and terrain of the site referring to site or climatic constraints on the growth of tree species (e.g. wind, waterlogging).

Climate

Located near the black isle, this area is afforded a mild oceanic climate with winter lows averaging around 2.9°C and summer highs averaging 14.2°C (Met Office Portal Data Grid ID AN-33). The area sees annual rainfall of 77.91 mm with the wettest months being December to January. High winds are recorded in winter and a history of large wind storm events are recorded within this locality. There is some wind damage to the woodlands currently and evidence of past wind damage within the Policy woodland.

Flooding

Although there are no watercourses within the site, it is prone to surface flooding due to poorly drained paths leading to the woodlands and running down the length of the two core paths which channel water, leading to flooding along Dunglass Road and Brich Drive.

Terrain

Soil erosion is generally not problematic with the exception of the path surface noted above. Soils are fertile and reasonably well drained brown earths with evidence of historic quarrying or materials excavation in part of the woodland. Ground slopes are flat to moderate ranging from 0% to <40% gradients with the exception of some short banks along roadsides.

Invasive species

A number of exotic species are present due to escapes from gardens, historic tree planting and subsequent regeneration, or from tipping of garden waste. Though invasive non-native species are fewer in number there are some present which will require monitoring and possible intervention to control spread, including *rhododendron ponticum*.

2.5 Woodland Composition, Structure and Condition

Provide a summary of the woodland composition by grouping areas of similar stands or habitats that will be managed in the same way together. Grouping can be based on:

- Whether the area is composed of broadleaf, conifer or mixed species
- The type of woodland or habitat in the area (e.g. open ground/scrub/plantation/coppice)
- The development stage or age of the area (eg. establishment, thicket, pole-stage, mature, over-mature). Plantations with similar planting years can be grouped together.
- Location or natural boundaries

The group should be given a number or a descriptive name (e.g. 'ancient woodland', 'new plantation', 'playground'). The table should also include some brief notes to describe the common features of the group.

Express the area of the each group as a percentage of the total woodland area (including open space)

The woodland is mainly comprised of common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) (60%) and silver/downy birch (*Betula pendula/pubescens*) (30%) with a wide range of other species forming the remainder (10%). Beech and birch trees on site range in maturity from saplings to over mature specimen. Beech and hemlock are freely regenerating on site. The exotic conifers on site can be found in the lower south area of the woodland. These large, impressive trees were planted to form part of the wider Brahan Estate in the 1800s. The conifers can be found in the woodland, set back from houses and roads.

Mature tree species forming the canopy include:

Grand fir – *Abies grandis*

Silver fir – *Abies alba*

Giant sequoia – *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

Monkey puzzle – *Araucaria araucana*

Douglas fir – *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

Monterey cypress – *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*

Scots pine – *Pinus sylvestris*

Sessile oak – *Quercus patraea*

Common beech – *F. sylvatica*

Tree species forming the understory include:

Common beech – *F. sylvatica*

Silver/downy birch – *B. pendula/pubescens*

Sessile oak – *Q. patraea*

Scots pine – *P. sylvestris*

Wych elm – *Ulmus glabra*

Holly – *Ilex aquifolium*

Common ash – *Fraxinus excelsior*

Hazel – *Corylus avellana*

Goat willow – *Salix caprea*

Rowan – *Sorbus aucuparia*

European larch – *Larix decidua*

Cotoneaster – *Cotoneaster franchetii*

Elder – *Sambucus nigra*

Hawthorn – *Crataegus monogyna*

Western Hemlock – *Tsuga heterophylla*

Section 2.5

Group (no. or name)	Conifer/ Broadleaf/ Mixed/	Habitat type	Development stage/Age	Description	% of woodland area
Policy mixture 1a	Mixed	Mixed non-native species	>100yrs, over-mature/ veteran	Long established of plantation origin, late seral, overmature mixture of conifer and broadleaf veteran trees with occasional dense understory of beech and hemlock. Overstory is predominantly beech, oak and mixed specimen conifer trees.	48
Native broadleaf mixture 2a & 2b	Broadleaf	Native mixed broadleaf woodland, closely resembling W4-upland birch	30-40 years, mature	Native woodland, mainly birch with rowan and other minor native species. Beginning to self-thin with some areas of windthrow.	51
Other woodland 3a	Broadleaf	Native mixed broadleaf woodland	20-40 years	Small area of scrub birch with willow, some indication of decline and plant health issues, fragmented from remaining woodland. Adjacent to Birch Drive.	1

For larger or more diverse woodlands a full sub-compartment schedule may be required. This can be provided as an appendix and should include the following fields : 'compartment', 'sub-compartment', 'Area (ha)', 'Main species', 'Age', 'Stand structure', 'Stand condition' and 'management prescriptions' . This will be read in conjunction with the sub-compartment map that you will provide.

2.6 Greenspace and Green Network Context

Gather together strategic information on the woodland i.e. - looking beyond the site.

Strategy or policy	Document Title	Page or section
Forest & Woodland Strategy	Highland Forest and Woodland Strategy 2018	p. 19-20 (4.33-4.38), p. 23(4.61), p. 30 (Theme 4), p. 32 (5.21), p. 33 (Theme 7)
Local Access Strategy	Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan	p. 73 (Connectivity 87), p.257 (Placemaking priorities 24-Maryburgh)
Other		
Other		

Provide information on any relevant developments planned within or in the vicinity of the woodland			
	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details
planned development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Major overhead utility line upgrade planned within the next 5 years, route of line may change.
growth area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Additional detail (if required)			

Provide information on the context of the site with regard to recreational and transport infrastructure in the local community				
Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref

Country Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Core Path Network route	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2 paths	Constraints Map
National Cycle Route	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Long distance footpath	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Public transport links (bus, train, tram)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bus, train	Constraints Map
Public facilities (schools, leisure centres, community centres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hall, Maryburgh Amenities Centre	Constraints Map
Additional detail (if required)				

2.7 Recreation Features				
Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
Clearly defined and accessible entrance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Public footpath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Constraints Map
All abilities trail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In need of maintenance, core paths	Constraints Map
Public bridleway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Public cycle path	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Core path network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Constraints Map
Other footpaths	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Constraints Map
Car park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Play/sport facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Site threshold signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Visitor information (on-site or other e.g. leaflet, website)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	website	NA
Toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Provision of learning opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Occurrence of Anti-social behaviour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	See description in 2.12	
Occurrence of Fly-tipping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Garden waste	Const raints Map
Occurrence of personal security issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Population within 2km of the woodland	Maryburgh & Conon Bridge, approximately 3280
<p><i>Estimate the population that lives within 2km of the woodland. Use the space below to comment on your estimate. Population statistics are available from the National Records of Scotland.</i></p> <p>This includes the surrounding rural areas within 2km, Maryburgh village itself is estimated to include over 600 residences, this is recorded as part of the hand delivered local newsletter the Roundabout. The wider population figure can also be estimated by local school attendance. The figure of 3280 was published in 2020 as part of the 'Settlements and Localities 2020' data from http://statistics.gov.scot/data/population-of-settlements-and-localities-2020</p>	

2.8 Cultural Features				
Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
Scheduled monument	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Listed Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other archaeological site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other cultural features of interest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Memory Trees	Const raints Map

Additional Detail (if required):

As part of the Brahan Garden and Designed Landscape, some of the individual trees are of historic interest as they were gifted and planted by visitors in the 1700-1800s as 'Memory Trees' to commemorate the visit. Mainly planted along the boulevard to Brahan Castle, these include specimen trees from all over the world many of which have long since died but some remain standing within the Maryburgh Community Woodlands.

2.9 Landscape Feature				
Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
National Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
National Scenic Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Special Landscape Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Registered Parks and Gardens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brahan GDL00068	Const raints Map
Other designed landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Attributes which contribute to sense of place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Additional detail (if required):				

2.10 Biodiversity Features				
Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
SSSI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	
SPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	
SAC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	
Ancient Woodland (State which category applies: ASNW/PAWS/LEPO)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEPO, part of Brahan Gardens and Designed	Const raints Map

			Landscapes planted pre c.1750s as a policy woodland	
Other (local) nature conservation site (LNCS/SINC/LBS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	
European Protected Species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red squirrels, no active dreys are known within the woodland but the red squirrel population uses the area for foraging	Const raints Map
Badgers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	
BAP species (state whether local or national)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Squirrel, national	Const raints Map
BAP habitats (state whether local or national)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Native Woodland, local and national	Const raints Map
Other species of note	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable	
Veteran Trees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As noted above, policy woodland trees of varying species age and size	Const raints Map
Deadwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mainly standing deadwood, deadwood in living trees, and some localised blown trees	Const raints Map
Additional detail (if required):				

2.11 Water Features				
Features	Within Wood	Adjacent to Wood	Details	Map Ref
Waterbodies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		



Watercourses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Additional detail(if required)				
There are no watercourse in or adjacent to the site.				

2.12 Threats

Describe any threats facing your woodland(s) and where relevant, under the following headings, detail the likelihood of presence and the potential impact as high (H), medium (M) or low (L).

Threat	Description	Likelihood (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)
Invasive/Noxious species (e.g. Rhododendron, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed)	Rhododendron can be found in small numbers along with 'other garden escapes' not native to the area	H	L
Tree Health	NA		
Mammal damage: deer, rabbits, hares, grey squirrels	Deer browsing is limiting diversity of tree species regeneration	M	M
Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution, contaminated land)	NA		
Environment (flooding)	Flooding along paths and public roads	H	M
Environment (wind damage)	Wind Damage from past and future storms affecting veteran trees and overall mature canopy	M	H
Climate Change (eg. unsuitable species/provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)	Understory regeneration of beech and hemlock, diversity of veteran trees not being replaced	M	M
Anti-social behaviour (eg, arson, fly-tipping,	Litter and garden waste tipping, breaking trees to	M	L

unauthorised vehicle access, vandalism)	make structures, or just to break trees etc mainly kids.		
Dangerous trees	Tree of varying ages and conditions present within the woodland	H	M
Other (specify)			
Additional Detail (if required):			

3 Vision and Objectives

To develop your long term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland and how you envisage it will be in the future.

3.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

A diverse and resilient woodland of varied age classes with historic interest which our community can safely access, enjoy, and benefit from while also reducing the impacts of climate change on the woodlands through good practice.

The woodland is park-like in places and natural in others. Young trees are visible in the understory and veteran trees dating before 1850 are noticeable in the overstory. There is a rich and diverse flora on the woodland floor which varies throughout the woodland, highlighting areas of wet ground and micro-habitats. Local wildlife populations use the variety of habitats present for nesting and foraging. Paths, both formal and informal, are present throughout the woodland and waymarked paths are maintained for all abilities. The woodland is well signposted with informative signs allowing users to gather a greater sense of place and understanding. It is a place for the community to enjoy and provides an escape to a natural space for both young and old alike to explore.

3.2 Management objectives

State the objectives of management. Objectives are a set of specific statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long term vision.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	Making the Woodland safe for members of the Community
2	Maintaining accessibility for all members of our Community

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
3	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland
4	Ensuring funding is available to enable good practice measures to be implemented
5	Highlighting and maintaining the cultural heritage of the Woodland
6	Enabling ongoing engagement with the community and commitment to community led decision making

4 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement, especially with the local community is a crucial part of WIAT woodland management. We will not approve a plan which does not provide evidence of adequate community engagement.

The [Community Engagement Toolkit](#) provides guidance on types of community engagement that may be appropriate. Identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and record any engagement in the table below.

Ensure constraints/opportunities and other issues raised by the stakeholders are also recorded on the constraints and opportunities map and table (see section 5.1).

Organisation or individual	Type of involvement (refer to Toolkit categories)	Date feedback /input received (DD/MM/YY)	Issue or Opportunity
Maryburgh Community Woodland Group	Interest group	2022-2024, monthly meetings, minutes online	Decision making, woodland management, public safety, environmental protection, community benefit
The Highland Council	Statutory	2023 & 2024, multiple	Tree Preservation Order felling and restocking of hazardous trees
Historic Environment Scotland	Statutory		Brahan Garden and Designed Landscape

Scottish Water	Utilities provider		Buried water mains, referred to plan provider for waterline maps
Brahan Estate	Neighbour	Multiple, site visit September 2023	Shared access, invasive species management, memory tree/veteran tree management
NatureScot	Statutory	Multiple, site visit April 2023	Biodiversity, community benefit, public access, public engagement
Community Members, multiple	Neighbours	2023 & 2024, Multiple, recorded online	Flooding along public roads, down trees blocking paths, cut wood removal, access path conditions
Men's Shed	Interest Group	2023 & 2024, multiple, in person meeting	Community benefit, cooperative projects (wood removal to make birdhouses, site signs, etc)

5 Analysis and Management Strategy

Analysing the Stakeholder Engagement in section 4 will allow you to identify how to make best use of the site and its resources to achieve your objectives.

The key tasks are:

- Take into account the expectations set out in the WIAT management standard (insert link).
- Explore options for designing the woodland, its spaces, views, habitats and access points to create an attractive resource with a distinct character.
- Explore how the trees and woodland can be actively managed using good silvicultural practice to ensure that the woodland is sustained and enhanced for the long-term.
- Analyse the context of the site and identify options for increasing the use of the woodland
- Explore how the recreational facilities, access opportunities and activities of the site can best be developed to support and encourage greater use.
- Take into account community perceptions and expectations – this must be demonstrated by referring to the issues raised during community engagement recorded in section 4.1
- Consider the management responses to each threat given in section 4.8

5.1 Constraints and Opportunities Analysis

Analyse the constraints and opportunities and record the results on an annotated map and in the table below. The key tasks in Section 5 above must be taken into account.

Feature/Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Natural regeneration	Sense natural regeneration in areas of hemlock and beech, shading out the understory	Selectively thin regeneration to favour under represented species such as holly, hazel, and hawthorn
Veteran trees	Over mature trees are not being replaced through regeneration or planting	Maintain veteran trees to preserve historic links to Brahan castle as well as contributing to late seral woodland structure. Ensure succession of memory trees through planting.
Dangerous trees	Condition of woodland is declining without regular maintenance	Monitor condition of trees and remove public risk through pruning and felling as required
flooding	Current path drainage creates flooding issues	Upgrade paths to drain and avoid concentrating surface flows
Core Path conditions	Vegetation growth encroaches on path and surface materials degraded or worn	Improve path conditions through weeding and resurfacing
signage	There is no signage in place notifying visitors of the community woodland	Place signs, interpretive boards and or other markers to inform visitors about the woodland, use branding generated by local schools to create a logo

bats	Potential for bat roosts to be present on site	Maintain good foraging habitat for bats
owls	Potential for owls to have roosts on site	Maintain mature canopy and consider owl boxes
Red squirrels	Potential for squirrels to have dreys on site	Maintain canopy and seed producing tree species
Rhododendron ponticum	Present in small numbers, one large bush of local importance	Remove smaller plants and consider measures to reduce seed spread
Overhead utilities	Potential for mature conifer to fall within risk zones of powerlines	Maintain regular communication with utility provider
Buried utilities	Water mains running under woodland	Maintain regular communication with water supplier
Roadside trees	Risk to road users from falling branches or windblown trees	Maintain roadside trees in safe condition, monitor annually
Antisocial behaviour	Litter and tipping of garden waste, also dog waste, lack of young peoples exposure to community woodland to generate a sense of stewardship	Working with Council, provide rubbish bins at main entrances, consider signage to inform community of threats to woodland from tipping garden waste. Monitoring woodland use for recreation (including impromptu 'shelter building' by community to ensure it is keeping with the vision of the woodland). Work with local schools to incorporate environmental education and woodland visits.
Woodland health	Unknown baseline condition of woodland species and habitats	

entryways	No indication of formal entrances or 'gateways' of the community woodland	Signpost the 5 entryways to the woodland
Biodiversity (general)	Limited historic records of previous woodland conditions	Develop annual monitoring programmes using citizen led recording where possible (citizen science)
Decision making	Limited viewpoints put forward from which to make decisions about the management of the woodlands, lack of young people involved in the woodland group	Scoping the woodland Management Plan through the community, making it available on the website, and forming of the Maryburgh Community Woodlands Group from volunteers within the local community (at time of writing this was 10 local residents)
Additional detail (if required)		

The Management Strategy (section 5.2) should address the key issues and objectives identified within the stakeholder engagement (section 4) and the Constraints & Opportunities Analysis (section 5.1)

The key management issues to be addressed, which have arisen from the constraints and opportunities analysis, should be recorded below and on a design concept map (refer to the WIAT management standard).

Each issue should relate to one or more of the management objectives stated in section 3.2.

Give a concise statement of the strategy to achieve the desired outcome e.g.:

- link paths to community centre
- create mountain bike facility for young people
- upgrade paths for all-abilities
- create a more open woodland

Prescriptions for the operations to be carried out should be given in section 7 (Management proposals)

Opportunities for silvicultural improvements should be taken over the short, medium and long- term.

Outline silvicultural policy and management objectives.

Describe the silvicultural improvement to be employed for each woodland type summarised in the woodland improvement.

5.2 Management strategy to address with key issues and objectives			
Key Issue or Opportunity (from section 5.1)	Associated Management Objective (from section 3.2)	Strategy to achieve desired outcome	Priority (H/M/L)
Natural regeneration	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland	Manage regeneration to thin out areas of dense beech, remove hemlock regeneration, and encourage regeneration of underrepresented species such as holly, hazel and hawthorn.	M
Veteran trees	Highlighting and maintaining the cultural heritage of the Woodland	Plant a new memory tree and place signage to commemorate community ownership. Place interpretive board near veteran specimen trees highlighting the history of the site. Maintain condition of veteran trees through pruning or removal where unsafe. Replace future veteran tree losses, consideration given to future memory trees for milestone events.	M
Dangerous trees	Making the Woodland safe for members of the Community	Annual surveys carried out to inform arboriculture works required to maintain trees in a safe state.	H
flooding	Making the Woodland safe for members of the Community	Improve drainage along core paths to prevent flooding.	H



Urban Woodland Management Plan

Core Path conditions	Maintaining accessibility for all members of our Community	Regularly clear paths of vegetation. Resurface paths to an all-abilities standard. Provide rest points along the core paths for those who may find walking the full path challenging.	H
Informal paths	Maintaining accessibility for all members of our Community	Continuing to allow informal access through the woodland along desire lines and unwaymarked areas, ensuring there remains a sense of exploration and escape.	L
signage	Maintaining accessibility for all members of our Community	Place signs, interpretive boards and other markers to inform visitors about the woodland.	M
bats	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland	Monitor woodland edge conditions and maintain to maximise insect numbers and bat foraging.	L
owls	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland	Install owl box.	L
Red squirrels	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland	Ensure percentage of Scots pine and other seed producing trees are maintained or increased.	L
Rhododendron ponticum	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the	Removal of young rhododendron plants. Replacement over time of old rhododendron ponticum with	L

Urban Woodland Management Plan

	biodiversity of the Woodland	non-invasive rhododendron from Brahan Estate gardens.	
Overhead utilities	Making the Woodland safe for members of the Community	Consult with network operators.	L
Buried utilities	Making the Woodland safe for members of the Community	Consult with water line managers.	L
Roadside trees	Making the Woodland safe for members of the Community	Carry out annual tree safety assessments.	M
Antisocial behaviour	Making the Woodland safe for members of the Community	Enacting website based reporting system for occurrences of anti-social activities and site signage. Annual review of findings by Maryburgh Community Woodlands Group.	M
Woodland health	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland	Set up a programme of monitoring using citizen science approach and local schools where possible to record conditions and monitor for signs of declining woodland health.	M
entryways	Maintaining accessibility for all members of our Community	Erect entrance signs.	H
Biodiversity (general)	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland	Developing a citizen science approach for monitoring biodiversity with planned survey volunteer days to coincide with national surveys (red squirrel survey for example) and to maintain records of biodiversity assets and extents within the	M

Urban Woodland Management Plan

		woodland. Focus on micro-habitats where possible.	
Wet ground	Developing and implementing practices to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Woodland	Identifying and mapping areas of wet ground.	L
<p>Describe your strategy for silvicultural improvement below.</p> <p>Management through minimal intervention focusing on understory management of beech and non-native conifers in a yearly rolling strategy, replacement of trees removed due to public danger, either through planting or natural regeneration and scrub management including pruning of woody plants around paths.</p> <p>As this site is wholly under a Tree Preservation Order, all tree felling/pruning/clearing activities within this management plan will be approved separately by the Highland Council. To facilitate this approval and ensure alignment with this Management Plan, the following tree works are detailed below:</p> <p>--Annual survey by qualified tree surveyor(s) identifying specific hazards to be addressed either through felling of trees or pruning/removal of limbs as identified within the survey by individual tree tag numbers. This survey will be appended with updates within each calendar year as needed following storms or other events which may identify new hazards and notified to the Highland Council.</p> <p>--Path clearing of small woody trees and shrubs, clearing of branches and regenerating or small trees within 2m of path as needed to maintain all-access paths. This will include removal of woody trees and shrubs less than 10cm in diameter, trees greater than 10cm in diameter (at breast height [dbh]) will be approved for removal under separate permission from Highland Council. This will include all mapped core paths. Informal paths (desire lines or paths not signposted) will be considered for clearing within 1m of the path and will focus on paths which are well used and clearly identifiable on the ground year-round.</p> <p>--Clearing of down trees, where these trees are identified as impinging on public access of the woodland, trees which have fallen may be cleared from paths or tracks.</p> <p>--Clearing of regenerating beech and hemlock. All regenerating hemlock will be planned for removal under a rolling programme of volunteer days covering the next ten-year period (2024-2034). Beech regeneration will also be planned for removal under a rolling programme of volunteer days covering then next ten-year period (2024-2034), though this will be limited to allow some beech regeneration to persist where it does not threaten under-represented tree species such as hazel, oak, rowan, etc.</p> <p>--Removal of wood, branches, seedlings, or other woody materials from the woodland will take place where the use of such materials has been identified, in</p>			

advance, for use by local small community groups (Men Shed or school activities for example) or by the Maryburgh Woodland Community Group itself, or for other targeted projects to reduce wood waste. These materials will only be generated from the activities listed above and no additional removal will take place beyond this. Where materials are identified as having a greater biodiversity benefit by retaining them on site to degrade, these will be left on site.

Additional detail (if required)

6 Management Proposals

Describe the operations that you will be undertaking in the woods in the relevant sections below. You may also wish to include a work programme as an appendix. You may use your own format or the suggested template given at Appendix 1. The approved plan may be made available to the public so any commercially sensitive financial information should be redacted from the document that you provide us.

6.1 Thinning and Felling

Where felling or thinning is proposed, you must provide a felling map indicating timing of felling, the areas to be thinned and areas to be managed under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS). Describe the thinning prescriptions to be employed in the woods including thinning type and intensity.

Show any areas of permanent woodland removal (eg for landscape reasons or to create space for play areas or other facilities, annotated with their area in hectares). Woodland removal may require an EIA determination from us depending on the area and whether the site is considered sensitive.

If applying for thinning approval with this plan, please complete Appendix 2 fully in accordance with your thinning map. Other types of felling must be applied for separately.

All woodland areas will be managed through minimal intervention. Annual surveys will inform felling of dangerous or diseased trees. Regeneration respacing will also occur to reduce dense beech and hemlock regeneration areas. There is an aim of removing all hemlock regeneration where feasible. Woody shrubs will be cleared along paths, including informal paths where feasible (See section . Leaning or blown trees will be cleared from paths. Annually this is estimated to make up less than 1% of the standing canopy.

Wind damaged individual trees and small groups of windblown trees are present and likely to continue to develop over time. Again managing through minimal intervention to react to areas of wind damage and clear hazards while also ensuring general tree health is not compromised due to groups of down trees which may allow introductions of pests or disease.

As noted within Section 5.2 Silvicultural Improvement-

As this site is wholly under a Tree Preservation Order, all tree felling/pruning/clearing activities within this management plan will be approved separately by the Highland Council. To facilitate this approval and ensure alignment with this Management Plan, the following tree works are detailed below:

--Annual survey by qualified tree surveyor(s) identifying specific hazards to be addressed either through felling of trees or pruning/removal of limbs as identified within the survey by individual tree tag numbers. This survey will be appended with updates within each calendar year as needed following storms or other events which may identify new hazards and notified to the Highland Council.

--Path clearing of small woody trees and shrubs, clearing of branches and regenerating or small trees within 2m of path as needed to maintain all-access paths. This will include removal of woody trees and shrubs less than 10cm in diameter, trees greater than 10cm in diameter (at breast height [dbh]) will be approved for removal under separate permission from Highland Council. This will include all mapped core paths. Informal paths (desire lines or paths not signposted) will be considered for clearing within 1m of the path and will focus on paths which are well used and clearly identifiable on the ground year-round.

--Clearing of down trees, where these trees are identified as impinging on public access of the woodland, trees which have fallen may be cleared from paths or tracks.

--Clearing of regenerating beech and hemlock. All regenerating hemlock will be planned for removal under a rolling programme of volunteer days covering the next ten-year period (2024-2034). Beech regeneration will also be planned for removal under a rolling programme of volunteer days covering then next ten-year period (2024-2034), though this will be limited to allow some beech regeneration to persist where it does not threaten under-represented tree species such as hazel, oak, rowan, etc.

--Removal of wood, branches, seedlings, or other woody materials from the woodland will take place where the use of such materials has been identified, in advance, for use by local small community groups (Men Shed or school activities for example) or by the Maryburgh Woodland Community Group itself, or for other targeted projects to reduce wood waste. These materials will only be generated from the activities listed above and no additional removal will take place beyond this. Where materials are identified as having a greater biodiversity benefit by retaining them on site to degrade, these will be left on site.

6.2 Planting / Restocking

Provide a map that shows proposed replanting after felling and new woodland creation and complete the schedule below. Species to be planted should be differentiated using colour coding. Small scale, intricate or complicated landscape planting should be further described by annotating the map with notes or referring to landscape design drawings in an appendix.

You should provide general prescriptions for the planting including ground preparation, tree and shrub species to be used, stocking density, protection and maintenance.

Planting will be minimal and focused on replacing dangerous or dying trees which may need to be removed. Species will be fitting of both the specimen species present as well as native species present. No novel species will be introduced which are not or were not (in the case of replacement trees) already present within the local area. Some species known to be invasive or prone to disease will not be planted, these include hemlock, larch, beech, ash, and elm.

Management of natural regeneration will occur to ensure hemlock and beech are not able to dominate the understory and species which are in fewer numbers are allowed to naturally regenerate over time.

All planted native stock will be of local origin wherever feasible (Zone 201).

Planting density will be single tree replacement planting and planting positions may be selected based on site suitability and light conditions. Ground preparation is not proposed, and direct planting will be carried out. Tree shelters may be used to protect young trees and these will be made from non-plastic materials.

Where single tree planting is a condition of felling approvals planting will occur within two planting seasons following felling or as per the conditions otherwise stated.

6.3 Access Improvements

Map the location and provide a brief description and the proposed timescale for each individual project (e.g path/track construction, car park construction,). Detailed plans and specifications for grant-aided capital works will be required in your WIG application but are not required here. Give an estimate of work quantities.

No new path infrastructure is proposed. Existing core paths will be maintained focusing on improving drainage and resurfacing. Woody shrub and regeneration clearing around core paths will ensure continued access. Outdoor furniture will be carefully considered to balance the needs of users who may require seating with risk from anti-social behaviour to ensure that facilities are provided which meet the need. Outdoor seating will be informed by a feasibility study within the first 5 years of the Plan period.

Path maintenance will be funding dependant and will start as soon as possible. All materials will be imported and work will meet the specifications within current Forestry Grant Scheme guidance and the 'Paths for All' suite of guidance documents produced by NatureScot.

The following Table outlines the current path networks both formal and informal through the woodlands-

Path	Description	Planned work
Tallysow wood	Core path RC31.01, section from Brahan Estate gate to Dunglass Road	Resurfacing, drainage and scrub clearance, full length within the community woodland

Tallysow wood	Core path RC31.01, section from Brahan Estate gate to Birch drive	Resurfacing, drainage and scrub clearance, full length within the community woodland
Unnamed	Main central desire line through woodlands, not waymarked, no built path surface	Consideration for adopting as a formal path by year 5, if adopted, signage will be erected and scrub clearance undertaken
Unnamed	Short connection route between Birch drive and Dunglass Road, not waymarked, no built path surface	Consideration for adopting as a formal path by year 5, if adopted, signage will be erected and scrub clearance undertaken
Unnamed	Remaining desire lines through woodlands, these are not waymarked and change route over time	None, these desire lines offer users a chance to explore and escape into nature, there is no intention to waymark or formalise these routes

6.4 Other Recreational Facilities

Map the location and provide a brief description and the proposed timescale for each individual project (e.g. play/sport facilities installation, toilet construction). Give an estimate of work quantities.

A feasibility study into car parking and electric vehicle charging and in-forest seating will be carried out within the first five years of the Plan. This will inform whether there are appropriate opportunities for these facilities to be constructed. These will only go ahead if found to be appropriate and feasible through the studies. No other new recreational facilities are proposed.

6.5 Community Perception

State how the overall impression of site will be improved (e.g. threshold/access point improvements, signage and interpretation, provision of visitor information (on-site or other e.g. leaflet, website), provision of learning opportunities and provision of community involvement opportunities.

Signage branded with a locally generated logo (P6 & P7 school competition to draw a logo for our new community woodland) will be placed at 5 main access points. Interpretive boards will be created to highlight the community woodland and the history of the policy woodlands 'memory trees'. There will be QR code signage to allow visitors to access the Community woodland website with further information and a reporting platform to communicate issues arising within the woodland.

The Maryburgh Community Woodland Group will continue to be run by local volunteers and will continue to foster links with other local groups to incorporate use of the woodland into their activities. There will be a particular effort to coordinate events and outings with local schools to promote the site as an outdoor classroom for environmental education.

Community events within the woodland will be planned annually and may include activities such as woodland litter picks and clean up days, tree planting, path clearing, woodland skills days, citizen science surveys, and a stand at the Maryburgh Gala days with guided woodland activities. Maryburgh's Community website, The Hub, and other social media outlets will advertise activities and events in the woodland as well as being posted on notice boards.

6.6 Safety and Security

Describe measures that will be taken to improve personal safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Website based reporting system to be implemented with a log of reports. This will be reviewed annually by the Maryburgh Community Woodland Group and actions planned to combat arising issues through clean-ups and signage as needed.

Signage focused on waste and invasive species can be targeted at sites of garden waste tipping and main entrances with information on how these activities may compromise the integrity of the woodland.

Further consideration, and a feasibility study within the first 5 years of the Plan, will be given to balancing community needs for seating and anti-social behaviour around seating areas, with potential for seating design to disincentivise communal anti-social gathering.

6.7 Maintenance

Provide details of how the site and infrastructure will be maintained, including removal of litter and fly-tipping for example.

Community clean up days will continue to be carried out. Projects partnered with the local Men's Shed will also contribute toward maintaining the woodland. See Appendix 1 Work Programme. The biodiversity monitoring will include monitoring of areas of garden waste tipping for any new introductions of invasive species. In addition to the work programme, the Maryburgh Hub website includes a reporting section within the Woodland page so that regular users can also contribute to site monitoring and reporting of arising issues to do with maintenance of the woodland.

7 Monitoring and Review

We advise that you carry out an interim review of progress against the plan annually. You may need this information when you make a claim for Forestry Grant Scheme payments e.g. Sustainable Management of Forests (WIAT). A full review of the plan will be expected at the end of year five.

Appendix 1 – Work Programme			
Sub-Compartment	Operation	Year(s)	Description
	Core path regrading and surfacing (flooding abatement)	1-2024	
	Core path brush clearing	1-2024	
	Informal path brush and down tree cleaning	1-2024	
	Entrance sign installation	1-2024	
	First round beech and hemlock clearance	1-2024	
	Woodland litter clean up	1-2024	
	Website updates	1-2024	
	Dangerous tree survey	1-2024	
	Dangerous tree mitigations	1-2024	
	Replacement tree planting	1-2024	
	Biodiversity monitoring	1-2024	
	Rhododendron pruning & garden escapes removal	1-2024	
	Dog waste signage & waste station	2-2025	
	Interpretive board for memory trees	2-2025	
	Second round beech and hemlock clearance	2-2025	
	Woodland litter clean up	2-2025	
	Dangerous tree survey	2-2025	
	Dangerous tree mitigations	2-2025	
	Biodiversity monitoring	2-2025	

	Rhododendron pruning & garden escapes removal	2-2025	
	Third round beech and hemlock clearance	3-2026	
	Woodland litter clean up	3-2026	
	Dangerous tree survey	3-2026	
	Dangerous tree mitigations	3-2026	
	Biodiversity monitoring	3-2026	
	Rhododendron pruning & garden escapes removal	3-2026	
	Fourth round beech and hemlock clearance	4-2027	
	Woodland litter clean up	4-2027	
	Dangerous tree survey	4-2027	
	Dangerous tree mitigations	4-2027	
	Biodiversity monitoring	4-2027	
	Rhododendron pruning & garden escapes removal	4-2027	
	Fifth year plan review	5-2028	
	Fifth year biodiversity monitoring review	5-2028	
	Dangerous tree survey	5-2028	
	Dangerous tree mitigations	5-2028	
	Core path brush clearing	5-2028	

Appendix 2 – Thinning

This table shows the total management plan area as well as the thinning compartments proposed for management. The felling site/compartment in this table must be shown as the same on the thinning map(s). Please select method of displaying thinning regime:

☐ Pre/Post stocking density

☐ Pre/Post basal area

☐ Volume to be removed

Total Plan Area:		hectares	Age (Years)	Marking of Trees	No of Trees	Volume (m ³)	Thinning Details (per ha)	
Thinning Compartment	Area (ha)	Species to be felled (one per row)					Pre	Post Total
Total Area					Total Volume m ³		Total to be removed:	

