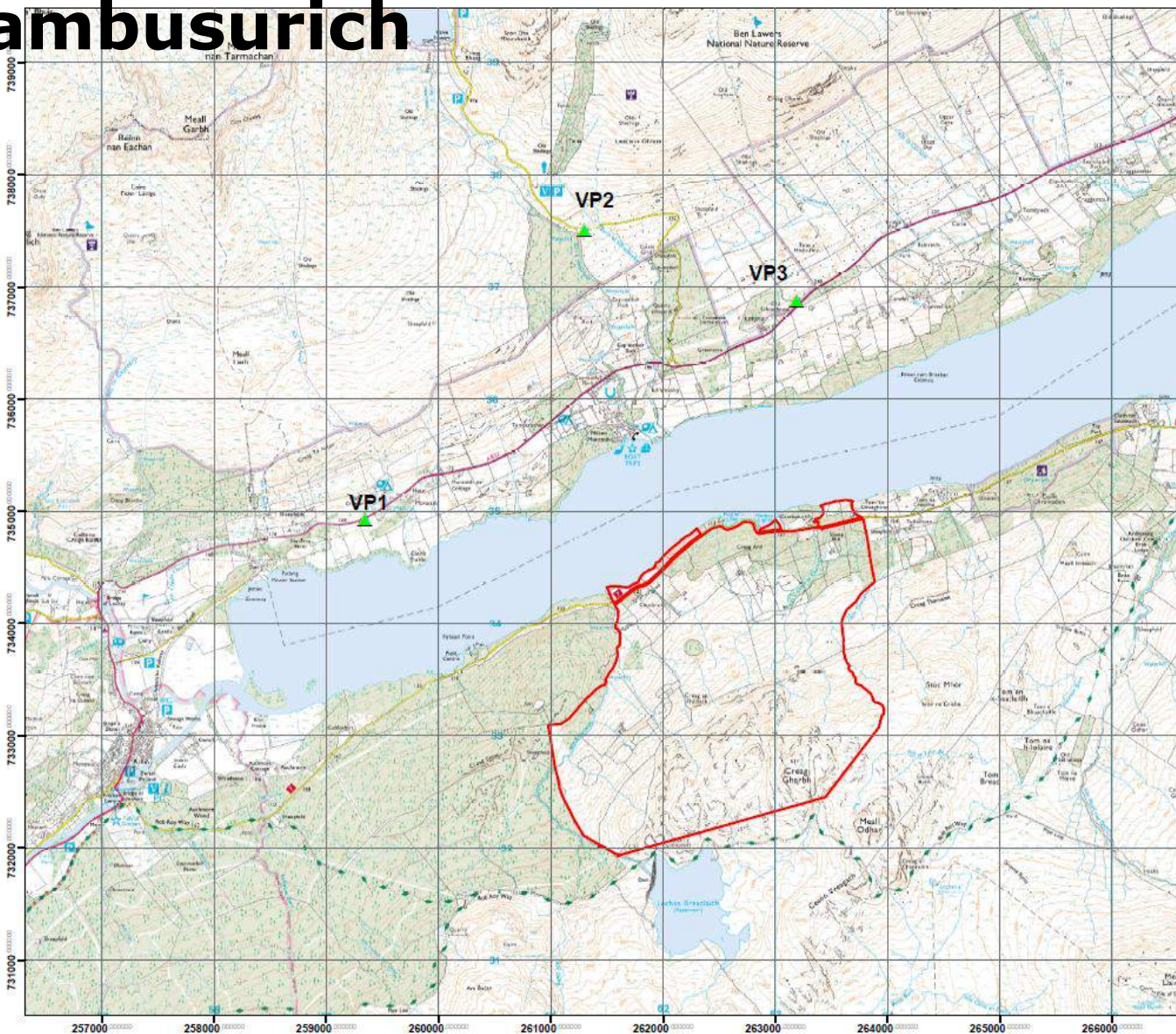


Woodland Creation Essentials

Example

Charles Bushby, Regional Manager, Scottish Woodlands
Cameron Maxwell, Conservator Perth & Argyll, FCS

Cambusurich

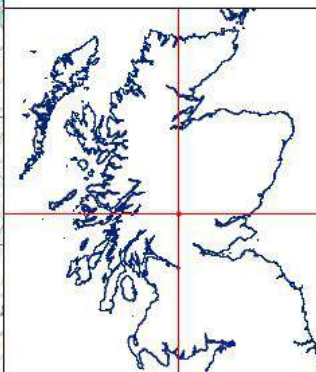


Cambusurich:
Proposed New
Woodland Creation

M1: Location & Viewpoints

Legend

-  Viewpoints
-  March



Scale: 1:33,000 @A3

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April 2017

Growing a Sustainable Future
- www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk









Stage 1: Proposal

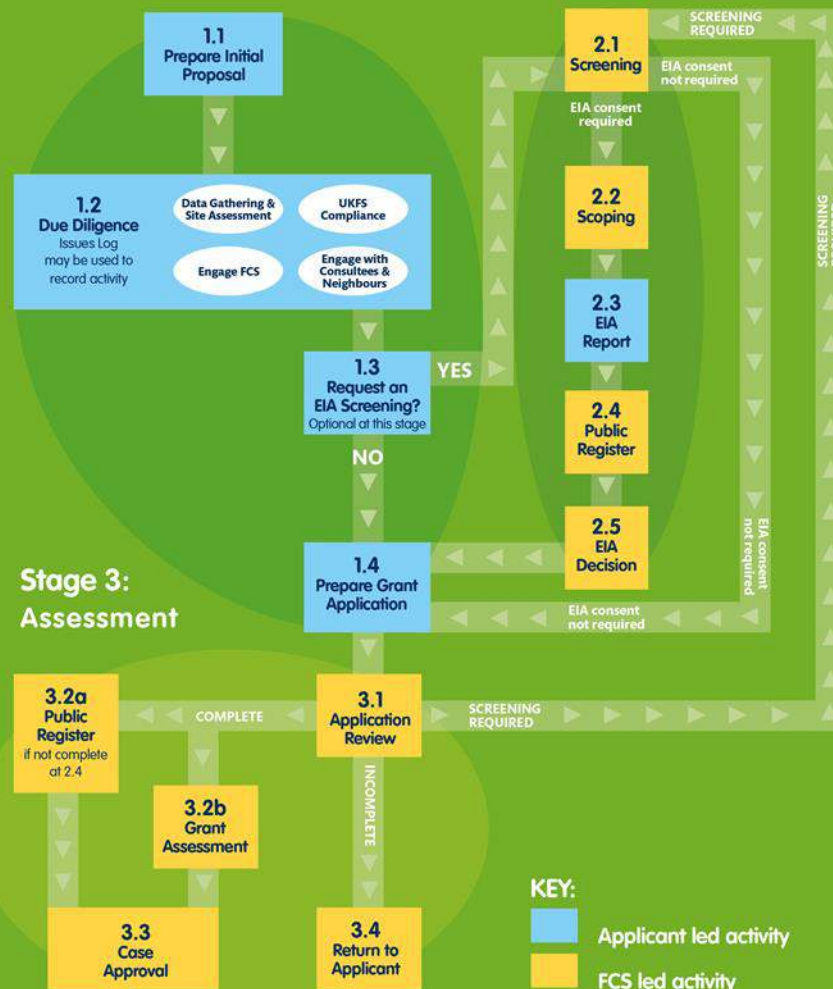
Step 1.1 Prepare initial proposal

- Consider your management objectives
- Consider what information you have and identify any new requirements
- Create an issues log

Woodland Creation Application Process

Stage 1: Proposal

Stage 2: Environmental Impact



Background

- Cambusurich - south Loch Tay
- Climate change ready forest
- 295ha
 - Conifer 125
 - Diverse conifer 106
 - BLs (productive) 20
 - Native BLs 44
- Total FGS value £1.3m

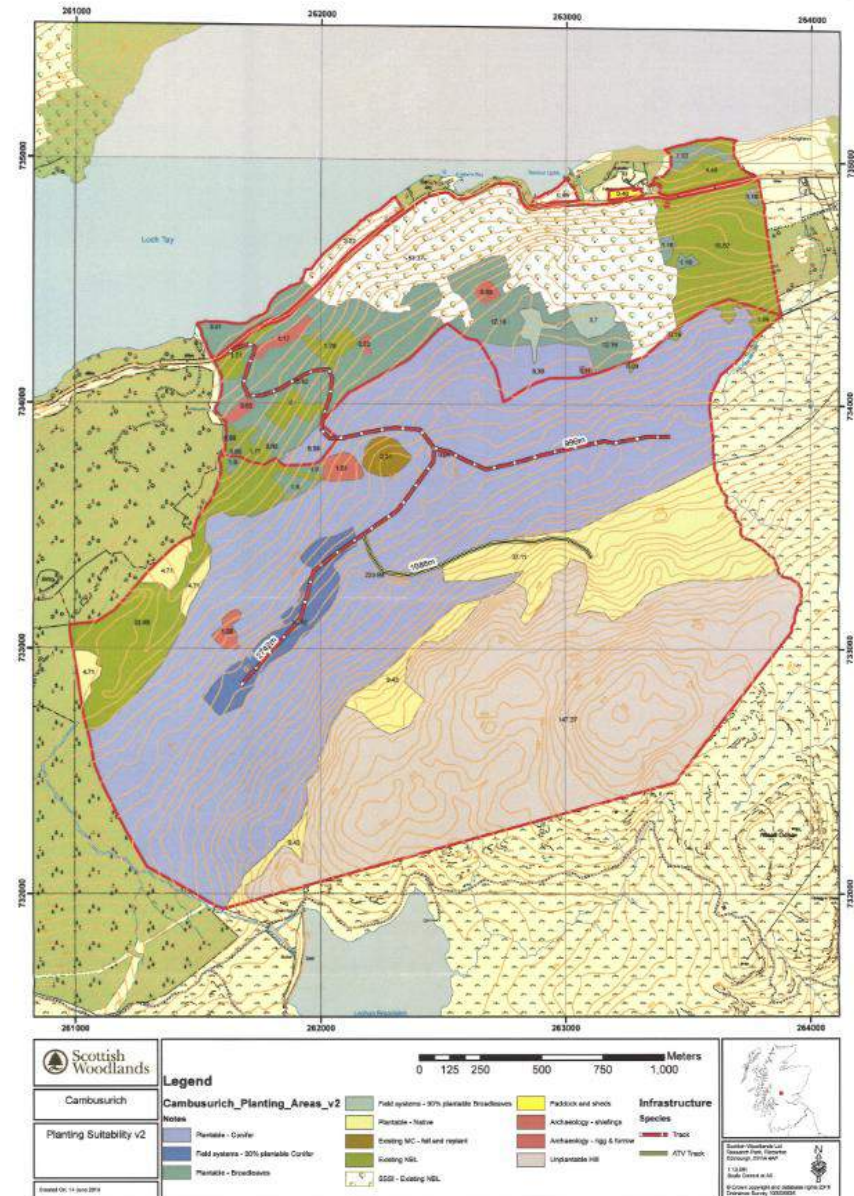
Constraints/sensitivities

- Landscape
- SSSI woodland and River Tay SAC
 - Ash, oak, wet woodland
- Archaeology – 32 cultural heritage site
- Communities
- Golden eagle, ravens, no black grouse
- GWDTEs

Initial species map

Planting suitability

Potential road line



Step 1.1 Timeline

- 8 July 16 - informal pre-purchase discussion
- 31 Aug 16 – land purchased
- 1 Sept 16 - EIA determination received
 - General description
 - Recognition of constraints
 - Early contact with one stakeholder

Stage 1: Proposal

Step 1.2 Due Diligence

- Engage with consultees and neighbours
- UKFS compliance
- Engage FCS
- Data gathering & site assessment



Woodland Creation Application Process

Stage 1: Proposal

Stage 2: Environmental Impact



- Oct 16 – FCS feedback re surveys required
 - Habitat/vegetation/GWDTEs
 - Breeding birds
 - Archaeological walk over
 - Landscape and visual assessment
 - Deep peat
- Nov 16 FCS/agent site meeting
- Dec 16 – screening meeting with FCS and SNH
 - SSSI – buffers, seed provenance, hydrology
 - Archaeology

- March 17 – FCS request for additional info
- Summer 17 surveys undertaken, ongoing correspondence
 - FR advice on species choice.
- Community council
 - Informed 2 May 2017
 - Attended council meeting 12 Sep 2017



Cambusurich Woodland Creation (Scottish Woodlands), South Loch Tay, 125ha Conifer + 106ha Diverse Conifer + 20ha Native Woodland (271ha total)

Issue N°	Raised by	Date raised	Category	Issue detail	Screening Comment	FCS Comments	Issue resolution - Does the concern indicate a significant impact
1	SNH	08/12/2016	SSSI	Hydrology	There is a hydrological connection between the eastern side of the site and the SSSI. The top section of the SSSI is wet woodland (Alder-Ash) which is fed by more base-rich flushes which originate on the hillside above the SSSI. The lower slopes of the SSSI woodland are drier and more acidic and are predominantly Oak woodland.	The NVC survey should identify flushes and all flushes feeding the SSSI should be excluded and buffered from the planting area. The new road line should avoid them if possible as well. Drainage will also need to be considered so that drains do not impact on wet flushes	An NVC survey has been completed which identifies wet flushes. As far as they are mappable, these have been excluded from the planting area. The survey found that the base rich springs (M10) become influenced by surface water and become less base rich (M25). The base rich flushes which influence the SSSI woodland species are therefore thought to arise locally within the woodland, rather than originating on the hillside. Provided UKFS guidelines are followed and a) wet flushes are avoided, b) drainage does not impact on wet flushes and c) road construction either avoids wet flushes or uses culverts to allow flow to continue there will not be any significant impact on hydrology.
2	SNH	08/12/2016	SSSI	Hydrology	SNH raised concerns that ploughing would alter the hydrology of the woodland site. The applicant would need to prove there would be no impact caused by ground preparation on the hydrology of the site, or on wet flushes	The current proposal is to plough the majority of the site, as is standard for productive schemes. Adherence to UKFS Forest and Water Guidelines and best practice will be expected - i.e. no drains steeper than 2°, buffer zones around watercourses and wet flushes and broken plough furrows rather than long straight runs. This will safeguard the hydrological integrity of the site.	An NVC survey has been completed which identifies wet flushes. As far as they are mappable, these have been excluded from the planting area. The survey found that the base rich springs (M10) become influenced by surface water and become less base rich (M25). The base rich flushes which influence the SSSI woodland species are therefore thought to arise locally within the woodland, rather than originating on the hillside. Provided UKFS guidelines are followed and a) wet flushes are avoided, b) drainage does not impact on wet flushes and c) road construction either avoids wet flushes or uses culverts to allow flow to continue there will not be any significant impact on hydrology.
3	SNH	08/12/2016	SSSI	Species choice	Species planted adjacent to the SSSI should not include potential invasives such as sycamore, poplar or beech. Care should be taken if planting oak (of any provenance) as oak pollen can travel long distances and could affect the genetic pool of the oaks in the SSSI. The SSSI should be buffered by native trees.	There may be a Tayside collection of productive birch material which could be planted. Productive conifer species would be harvested before they reached seeding age so should not become invasive in the SSSI.	The SSSI has been buffered on all sides with native woodland and/or open ground. There will be no impact on SSSI from shading or non-native seed dispersal.
4	SNH	08/12/2016	Infrastructure	Roads	Track construction will need to consider hydrology and habitats	Best practice and adherence to SNH Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands guidance will be required.	An NVC survey has been completed which identifies wet flushes. As far as they are mappable, these have been excluded from the planting area. The survey found that the base rich springs (M10) become influenced by surface water and become less base rich (M25). The base rich flushes which influence the SSSI woodland species are therefore thought to arise locally within the woodland, rather than originating on the hillside. Provided UKFS guidelines are followed and a) wet flushes are avoided, b) drainage does not impact on wet flushes and c) road construction either avoids wet flushes or uses culverts to allow flow to continue there will not be any significant impact on hydrology. This has been confirmed in the operational plan.
5	SNH	08/12/2016	Deer management	Infrastructure	The project should consider what infrastructure (eg quad bike tracks) will be required to facilitate cull required to reduce offset deer numbers.		Low cull levels required therefore only forest roads to be installed.
6	SNH	08/12/2016	Deer management	Cull targets	Deer management will need to include a compensatory cull for the area which will be fenced. The 2010 cull data shows that very few red deer were culled on Cambusurich however the adjoining estates had high cull rates. The area is on a red deer migration path and so has numbers of deer passing through. Culling on the site may therefore need to be weekly.	Request a deer management plan be submitted by the applicant demonstrating that all issues have been considered and setting cull targets. The applicant will need to liaise with the South Perthshire DMG to outline requirement for culling and ascertain migration routes.	Cull figures for previous years have been very low - possibly due to low areas of woodland on Cambusurich? Deer will be culled from within the fence, and the SSSI will have a separate deer fence.
7	SNH	08/12/2016	Deer management	Fencing	The SSSI woodlands are in unfavourable condition due to overgrazing by deer and stock and it would be good to fence the SSSI.	There should be a zero tolerance of deer within the site boundary. Deer fencing may be required externally and internally - the additional fencing around the SSSI could be funded by a WIG.	Zero tolerance of deer within deer fence will be expected as part of FGS requirements.

Created by FCS as survey info came in to keep track of issues, response and mitigation

Stage 2: Environmental impact

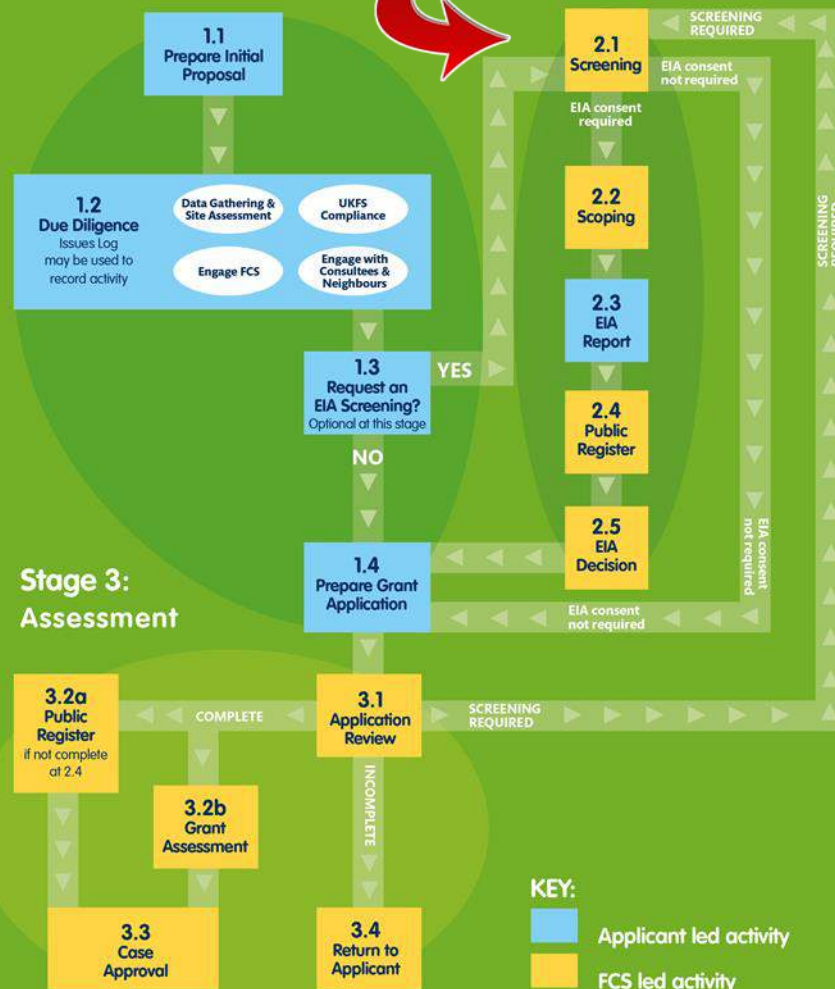
Step 2.1 EIA screening

- Screening determination submitted early on (Sept 16) in the process
- Survey info, analysis and mitigation needed before screening opinion could be made
- Oct 17 – screening opinion
 - Not an EIA forestry project
 - Consent not required.

Woodland Creation Application Process

Stage 1: Proposal

Stage 2: Environmental Impact



Stage 1: Proposal

Step 1.4 Prepare grant application

Woodland Creation Application Process

Stage 1: Proposal

Stage 2: Environmental Impact



Stage 3: Assessment

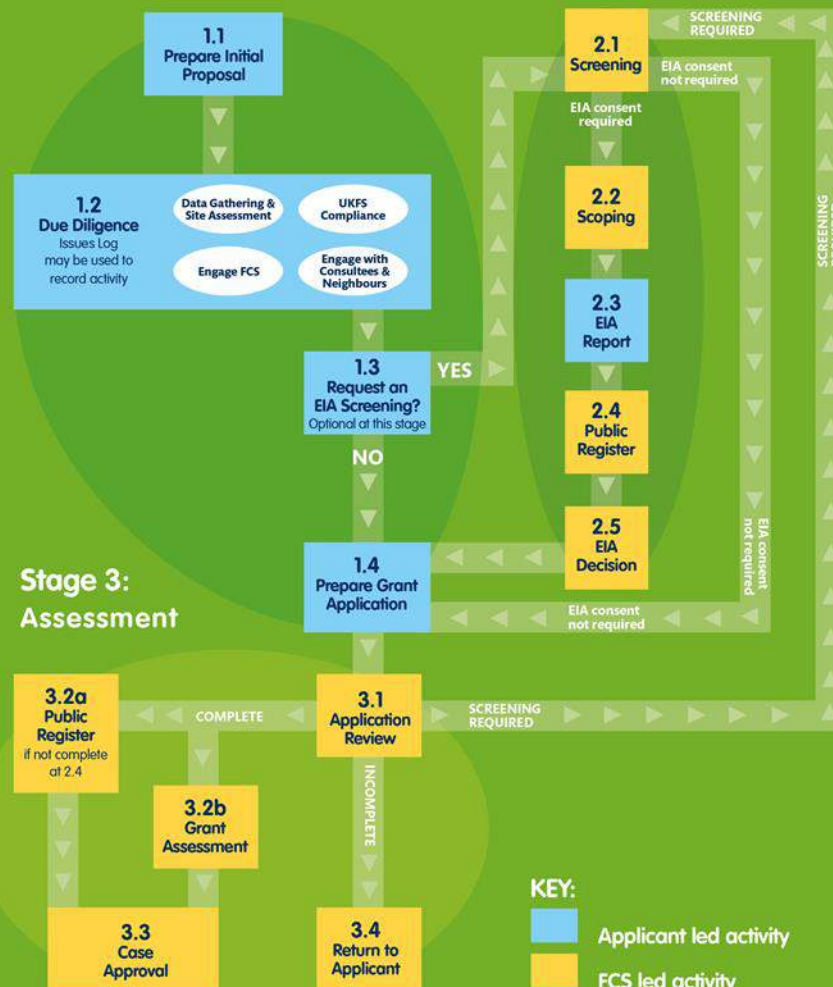
- Step 3.1 Application Review
3.2a Public Register
3.2b Grant Assessment
3.3 Case Approval



Woodland Creation Application Process

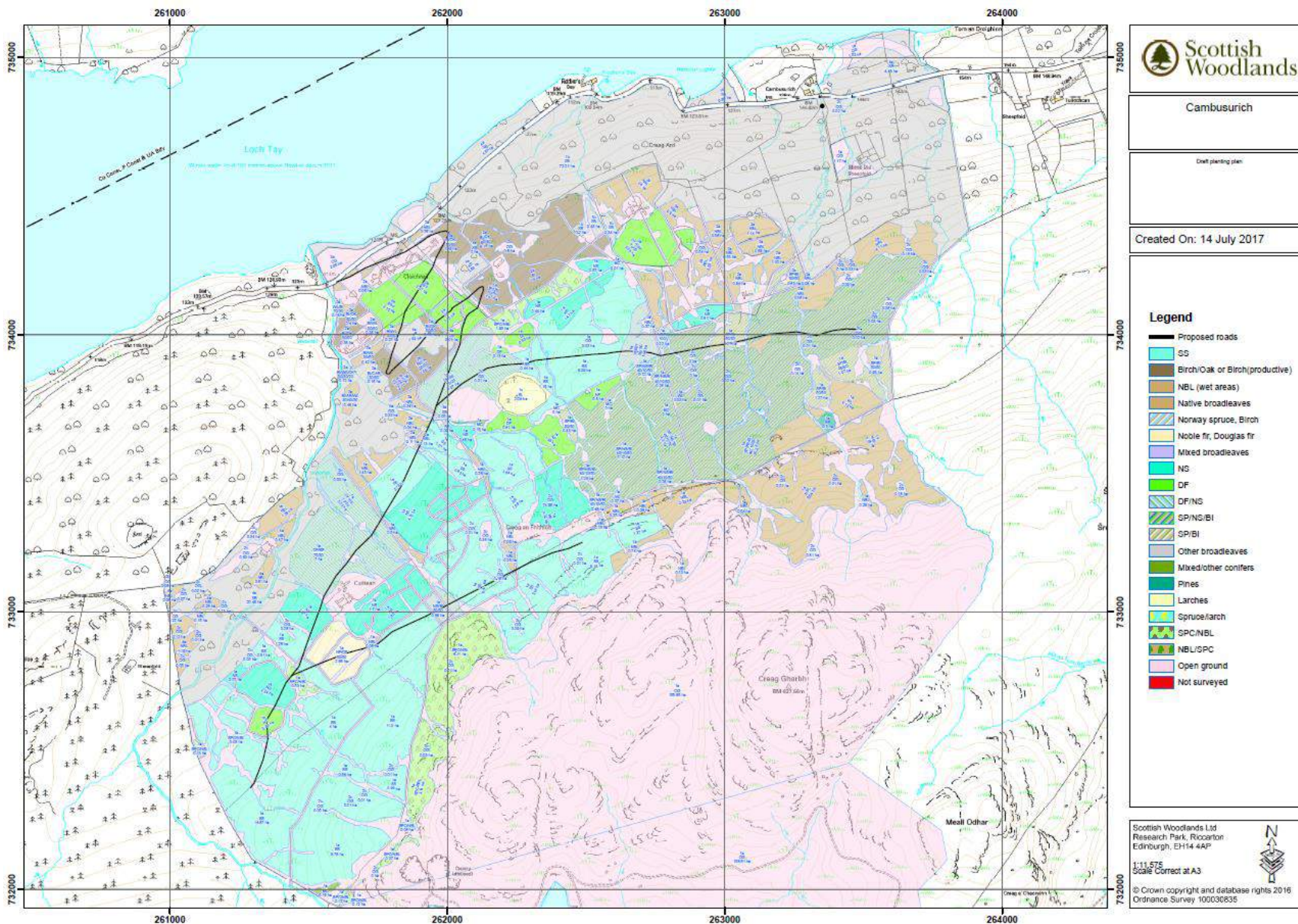
Stage 1: Proposal

Stage 2: Environmental Impact



FGS timeline

- 28 July 17 – receipt of FGS application
- 4 August 17 - Application on public register
- 21 Sept 17 – receipt of revised application
- 29 Sept 17 – clearing
- 4 Oct 17 – FGS grant approval letter
- 6 Nov 17 – contract (re)issued
- 19 Dec 17 – approval to start work letter



What was done well!

- Design
- Species choice
- Sensitivity to SSSI
- Sensitivity to GWDTEs
- Community engagement
- Quality of the surveys (generally)
- Good agent engagement and regular updates
- Fast FGS application process once submitted

What could be improved!

- Proper specifications for surveys
- EIA determination process very slow
- Process for permission for road construction
- Conflict of interest with SNH





Any questions?