SCOTTISH BORDERS WOODLAND STRATEGY

New Ways for Scottish Borders Trees, Woodlands and Forests

2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Borders Forest Trust
Deer Commission for Scotland
Forestry Commission Scotland
Forestry Contracting Association
Forestry & Timber Association
Lothian Estates & Roxburghe Estates
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Scottish Borders Council *(Lifelong Learning, Planning & Economic Development, Transport & Environmental Standards, Timber Transport Forum)*
Scottish Borders Tourist Board
Scottish Enterprise Borders
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Scottish Forest Industries Cluster
Scottish Natural Heritage
Southern Upland Partnership
Tweed Forum
Tweed Foundation

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PART 1
INTRODUCING THE STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

In Scottish Borders, trees, woodlands and forests make a significant contribution to the region's quality of life. They support the region's economy through timber production and local wood processing and utilisation. They also make a substantial contribution to the tourist industry, providing opportunities for recreation, healthy exercise and community involvement. They contribute to Scottish Border's unique landscape, ecological and cultural heritage. In some way "forestry" is relevant to, or touches everyone living, working or visiting the Scottish Borders.

In March 2004, with the support and guidance of a number of partner bodies, Scottish Borders Council commissioned a review of its Indicative Forestry Strategy. The purpose of the review was to update the current information and, using a map based or spatial approach, to turn the constraints approach of the previous IFS into a positive and opportunities-oriented policy document that will become the first **Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy (SBWS).**

The Strategy seeks to draw together all those who have an interest in the Borders tree resources. It is intended to provide an integrated, practical, partnership based and pro-active approach that will continue the work of the steering group and act as a positive framework for the future. It will become a component of the New Way Forward Scottish Borders Structure Plan 2001- 2011 and will provide a regional expression of the Scottish Forestry Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The existing Scottish Borders Indicative Forestry Strategy (IFS) was first adopted as part of the Borders Regional Council 1993 Structure Plan. Many of the conditions that governed the nature of forestry at that time have changed significantly - for example, the economic climate for timber production has altered markedly and much of recent new planting has been focussed more towards amenity and conservation objectives. There is now wide recognition of the diverse environmental and social benefits that well designed, multi purpose forests can bring.

In 1998, a range of new environmental measures was brought together with the publication of the UK Forestry Standard. In 1999 the then Scottish Office published Circular 9/1999 giving revised guidance on the preparation of Indicative Forestry Strategies and explaining their role in relation to Structure Plans. It explains that an IFS should allow a planning authority to influence the nature of future forestry activities in its area, and to review their Strategy in partnership with, and drawing on expertise from, relevant stakeholders and highlights the need for full community participation. The following themes are likely to be considered in preparing an IFS:

- The contribution that further woodland expansion or restructuring of existing forests can make to the creation of high quality woodlands serving a variety of purposes including timber production, development of rural communities, opportunities for recreation, landscape and biodiversity enhancement, habitat creation and restoration of derelict or degraded land;

- Identification of priority areas where woodland expansion, and the possibility of associated future funding, might be targeted;
- The balance of forestry against other land uses across the IFS area;
- The limits of acceptable change in areas sensitive to further planting;
- The extent to which opportunities provided by felling might be used to restructure existing plantations.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy (SBWS) is fourfold:

- To provide a planning tool and policy guidance for Scottish Borders Council for use in conjunction with its New Ways Forward Structure Plan;
- To provide a framework policy document for the development of forestry in Scottish Borders that will be widely supported and will help secure financial resources to deliver the Strategy's vision;
- To provide a regional expression of the Scottish Forestry Strategy;
- To assist the Forestry Commission in considering the suitability of applications for Grant assistance for planting and management of woodlands.

The Strategy is designed to reflect and deliver on the priorities of national and local level forestry and other policies, planning and action frameworks, as well as Scottish Borders businesses, environmental interests and the wider local community, as expressed in other Scottish Borders 'New Ways' documents. It seeks to integrate all the relevant interests and sectors to promote and co-ordinate the management of trees, woodlands and forests to ensure maximum social, economic and environmental benefits are derived. It goes well beyond simply the planting, management, harvesting and primary processing of the timber resource, and seeks to influence other land use reforms for the 21st century. In doing so the SBWS also promotes the wider role of forestry as an exemplar of working to sustainable development principles.

Responding to Scottish Office circular 9/1999 there is policy guidance contained in the SBWS that reflects the collective opinion of the organisations and individuals that have contributed to its development.

TIMESCALE

The Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy is about a commitment to a change in approach by Scottish Borders Council as to its role in supporting the trees, woodlands and forests sector in the region. Whilst the SBWS's vision is a long term one - the next 50 years - the history of forestry teaches us that much can change in that time. The circumstances, which apply when trees are felled or reach maturity, are rarely those anticipated when the same trees were planted. Social, economic and environmental conditions will continue to change, and the effects of this Strategy are likely to be visible well into the future. Society's future demands cannot be readily foreseen. It is thus essential that the Strategy framework is sufficiently flexible to adapt to change by periodic review and updating. It is therefore proposed that the Strategy will have a 'working life' of 10 years with provision for a '5 year review' in 2010.

STRATEGY METHODOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Scottish Borders Council developed the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Borders Forest Trust with advice and guidance from a Steering Group comprising a range of other key stakeholders with interests in forestry. Consultants were engaged to provide professional forestry, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and facilitation support to the strategy process.

Development of the Strategy started in late 2003 and finished in 2005. The process commenced with the development of a brief for the appointment of consultants to undertake the analysis, draft the Strategy text and maps and to advise on the consultation stages. Scoping included a desk study of relevant strategies, a stakeholder questionnaire to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the sector, interviews with stakeholders to identify key issues, and a workshop with the Steering Group early in 2004 to agree the Vision and operating principles that would underpin the strategy.

An 'Issues Discussion Paper' was prepared in May 2004 summarising the results of the scoping process and exploring the central issues including the 'GIS criteria' used in the SBWS mapping. The Issues Discussion Paper was widely debated at a stakeholder workshop held in Galashiels in June 2004. The draft SBWS was developed directly from the stakeholder workshop and was supplemented by discussion with key players and in conjunction with responses from a formal consultation process with the Steering Group and the wider community.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) computer based mapping has been used to provide indicative maps. These are based upon defined criteria intended to give expression to the views and issues raised in the stakeholder workshop and through consultation.

It is intended that actions identified in Part 5 will be enacted by an Implementation Panel, to be composed of the steering group and other main stakeholder interests.

KEY ISSUES

As development of the Strategy progressed, a number of key issues were identified by stakeholders which provide the following core building blocks for the Strategy;

These were:

- Infrastructure support for the forestry sector
- Support for developing the Scottish Borders rural economy and the timber industry
- Adding, creating and retaining value by more local processing and utilisation of the Scottish Borders timber resource
- Timber transport infrastructure
- Regional and pan-regional joined up thinking

- Amount and type of woodland cover
- Location of future woodland cover
- Agricultural diversification
- Future ownership and management of the Forestry Commission Scotland forest estate

- Silvicultural (maintenance of trees, woodlands and forests) practice
- Protecting and enhancing local landscape character, built, natural and cultural heritage
- Meeting UK, Scottish and local biodiversity objectives
- Deer and other herbivore management
- Watershed management
- Certification

- Woodland as a source of renewable energy
- The contribution that woodlands and forests make to carbon sequestration
- Strengthening the links between trees, woodlands and forests and tourism
- Strengthening the links between trees, woodlands and health & well-being

- Strengthening woodland culture through community participation
- Using woodlands as an educational resource

PART 2
NATIONAL & REGIONAL FORESTRY SECTOR PERSPECTIVES

THE NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

Commitment to Sustainable Forest Management

As part of the UK, Scotland is committed to following the over-riding international priority for forests and woodlands, as set out at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, which is to manage them sustainably. This commitment is at the heart of Government policy on forestry and is set out in the UK Forestry Standard (1998).

Biodiversity

Biodiversity as a concept also emerged from the 1992 Earth Summit to which the UK Government demonstrated its commitment by publishing its Biodiversity Action Plan in 1995 and by establishing the Scottish Biodiversity Group in 1996. The delivery mechanism for biodiversity action at the local level has been through Species, Habitat and Local Biodiversity Plans. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan includes the identification of the need to protect, improve and restore ancient semi-natural woodlands and encourage the extension and creation of new native woodlands. In order to achieve this, Habitat Action Plans have since been produced for a number of native woodland types and Species Action Plans for woodland dependent species including wood management, restoration and expansion targets for Scotland over the next 10 - 15 years. In 2004 the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy was published which represents the devolved implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Scottish Species and Habitat priorities are to be published in 2005.

Scottish Forestry Strategy

Forestry is a devolved responsibility and in its Programme for Government, 'Making it Work Together' 1999, one of the Scottish Executive priorities is to promote sustainable forest management. This commitment is central to the Scottish Executive's Scottish Forestry Strategy (2000) which is the national policy document setting out the Executive's vision and priorities for trees, woods and forests in Scotland over the next 20 years and beyond. It has the following five strategic directions for Scottish forestry:

- To maximise the value to the Scottish economy of the wood resource becoming available over the next 20 years;
- To create a diverse forest resource of high quality that will contribute to the economic needs of Scotland throughout the 21st century and beyond;
- To ensure that Scotland's forests make a positive contribution to the environment;
- To create opportunities for more people to enjoy trees, woods and forests in Scotland;
- To help communities benefit from woods and forests.

Underpinning these directions are five principles - sustainability, integration, ensuring positive value, securing community support, and recognising local diversity and distinctiveness. Effective implementation of the Scottish Forestry Strategy

will help deliver the Scottish Executive's two cross cutting priorities which are to promote sustainable development, combining economic growth with social and environmental justice and to close the opportunity gap between the most disadvantaged and the average for Scotland.

In the same year as the Scottish Forestry Strategy, "Roots for Growth: A Strategic Framework for Action for the Scottish Forestry Industries" was published by Scottish Enterprise on behalf of the Scottish Forestry Industries Cluster - a partnership between the Forest Industries Development Council and Scottish Enterprise. The objectives for the cluster from Roots for Growth are to enable the industry to make best use of e-commerce, to enable the industry to respond to change through collaboration, to secure strategic sites for large-scale investment, and to devise advanced transport and logistics solutions.

The Scottish Executive has also set out a vision for a 'Smart, Successful Scotland: Ambitions for the Enterprise Networks' (2001) in which the Enterprise Networks are to be key partners in delivering the vision of a Scotland where creating, learning and connecting faster is the basis for sustained productivity, competitiveness and prosperity. This strategy can provide a framework to help deliver some of the objectives of a Smart, Successful Scotland.

Rural Economic Development

Many of the rural communities in Scotland are affected by forestry activity. Following devolution, the Scottish Executive expressed its desire to raise the quality of life for all people through increasing economic opportunities on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis in its 'The Way Forward: Framework for Economic Development in Scotland'. The Executive subsequently underlined its commitment to rural communities and the rural economy through its 'Rural Scotland - A New Approach' policy statement which also highlighted the difficulty of developing and co-ordinating effective national strategies over complex rural areas with many inter-related policies occurring simultaneously. It was recognised that the implementation of generic policy approaches, with more detailed solutions in specific areas such as forestry, may be more appropriate. This national rural policy thus provides an important policy context for the development of this strategy.

Agricultural Policy

Forestry is closely linked with agriculture both through competition for use of land and similarity of skills in both the farming and forestry sectors. The 'Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture' (2001) introduced an integrated and coordinated long-term approach to the development and management of the agricultural sector and the countryside. The Strategy states that, in future, farming is likely to become more independent, and with increased efficiency within the market place rather than public subsidy contributing to farm income.

The role of land in the Scottish economy is indeed changing rapidly and this will be taken further with CAP reform and the Scottish Executive's Land Reform programme. While primary production remains important to the rural economy, land is also valued for other reasons, such as conservation, amenity and recreation. It is now widely recognised that these 'non-market' values, although apparently nonproductive, actually have a critical economic role by providing a landscape that helps to attract tourists and inward investment. They also have a significant social role by providing opportunities for healthy exercise and relaxation and community participation. With increased emphasis on these 'non-market' values, it is anticipated that farmers will increasingly look towards woodland related diversification measures.

The Rural Development Plan for Scotland

Forestry and farming are brought together in the EU Rural Development Regulation (RDR). This specifically identifies support to be provided for the maintenance and development of the economic, ecological and social functions of farms and forests in rural areas, both through the afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land and for investments in forests. The Rural Development Plan for Scotland is the key programme for targeting European funds under the RDR and it will have a major influence on the implementation of the Scottish Forestry Strategy at national and local levels.

Regional Forestry Strategies

The regions that neighbour Scottish Borders include East Lothian, Midlothian, South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Cumbria and Northumberland. Each will be producing their own forestry strategy or will be part of a regional forestry strategy and it will be important to review the implementation of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy in the light of these other strategies and to seek opportunities for collaborative action.

THE LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

Scottish Borders Structure Plan - The New Way Forward

The Scottish Borders Structure Plan, approved by Scottish Ministers in September 2002, provides the principal context for the development of the SBWS. The Plan contains the land use planning policies and proposals that co-ordinate the requirements for development land with the protection of the environment at a strategic level. The approved policies thus act as a controlling influence on the preparation of the Scottish Borders Woodlands Strategy.

The Structure Plan focuses on the following four key elements that underpin all its policies:

- Sustainable Growth
- Development Hubs
- Managing Change
- Environmental Quality

Whilst forestry planting and management are outside the scope of current planning legislation, it is expected that they will require to accord generally with the Structure Plan's approved policies.

Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan

The Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan was drawn up by the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Partnership which was formed in 1998. The Plan documents and describes habitat types and individual species of animals and plants that are considered to be priorities for conservation and enhanced management in Scottish Borders. The Plan forms part of a series of Local Biodiversity Action Plans covering all of Scotland that seek to translate the UK Government Biodiversity Action Plan and more recently the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy into effective action at local level.

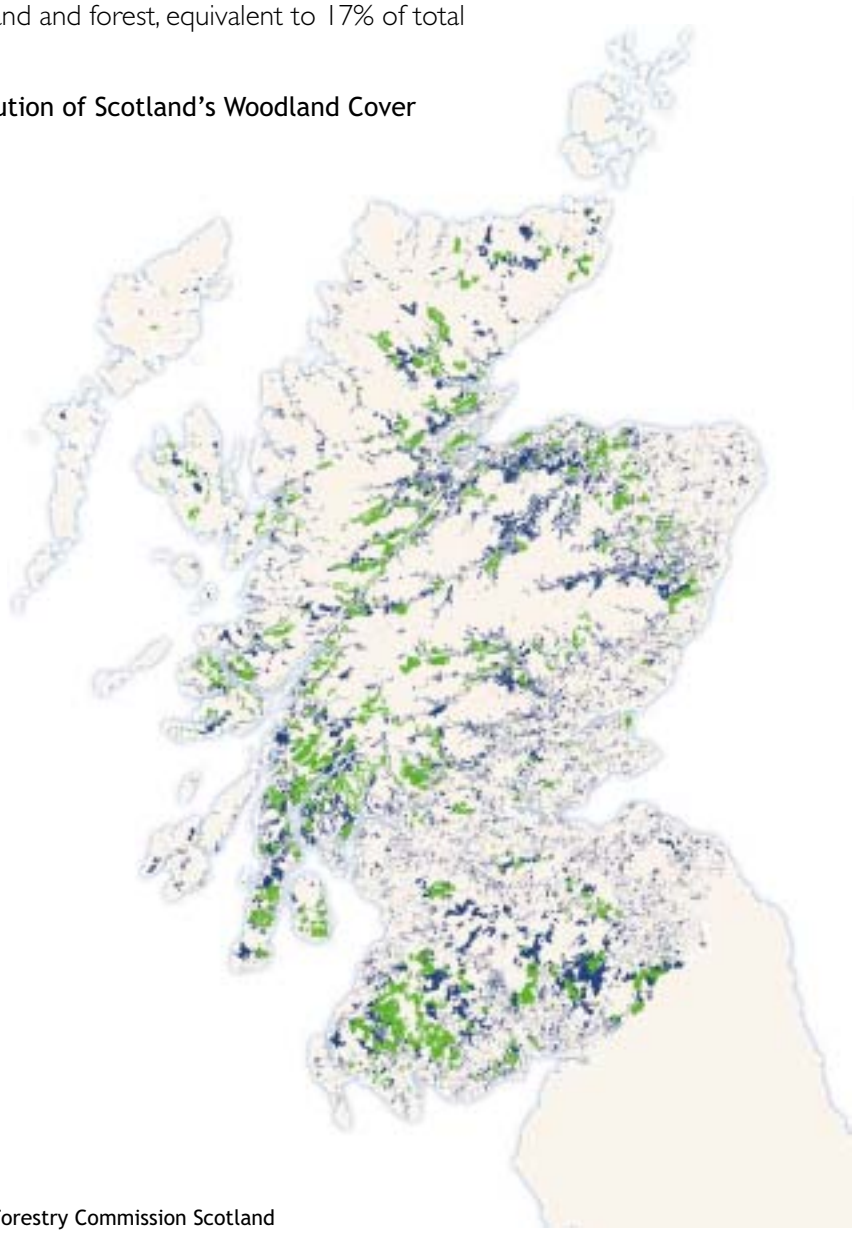
Native, riparian, semi-natural and policy woodlands, wood pasture & parkland, coniferous woodland and upland scrub & cleuch woodland are among those identified as priority habitats in Scottish Borders. The protection and promotion of these priority habitats, as well as the other habitats and species identified in the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan, particularly upland heath, farmland and urban habitats, need to be taken into consideration in the formulation of the SBWS. Indeed, the strategy is a key mechanism by which a number of the Action Plan proposals might be implemented.

The Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan is also a key element of the Environmental Strategy of the Scottish Borders Community Plan. Biodiversity also appears as a theme in the other strategies of the Scottish Borders Community Plan (the Economic Strategy and the Social and Health Strategy).

SCOTLAND'S FORESTS AND WOODLAND RESOURCES

Scotland is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. It has about 1.3 million hectares (ha) of woodland and forest, equivalent to 17% of total land area (see Map 1). Of this total, about 70% is coniferous, 14% broadleaved and 4% mixed woodland with the balance being open space within woodland. The main conifer species is Sitka spruce occupying more than 500,000 ha or 48% of the total area. This species is likely to retain a dominant position in Scottish forestry, providing at least 70% of softwood production for the next 30 years and beyond. Much of the conifer resource has been established as large- scale, single species and even-aged plantations on upland sites, often exposed and prone to windblow (see Map 1).

Map1
Distribution of Scotland's Woodland Cover

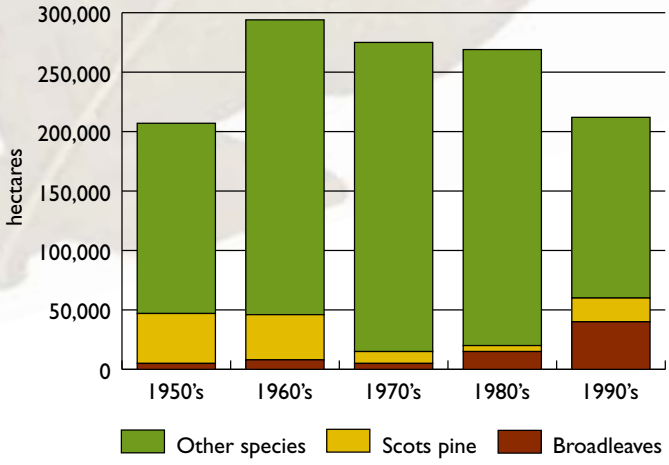


Source: Forestry Commission Scotland

There is now world wide recognition of the importance of conserving natural forests because they provide such a rich resource of biodiversity. However, it is estimated that only 150,000 ha of semi-natural woodland now remain throughout Scotland - i.e. about 2% of total land area. In Scottish Borders only small scattered fragments of 'semi-natural' woodland remain comprising only 0.26% of total land area.

During the second half of the 20th century, nearly 90% of Scotland's woods and forests have been planted or replanted. Since about 1990 there has been an important shift in type and location of new planting (see Fig 1). Before then most new forests were planted on poorer land considered unsuitable for anything but lower grade agriculture such as grazing, whereas now planting on better quality land is encouraged. At the same time, greater emphasis is placed on planting a wider diversity of species, including higher proportions of Scots pine and native broadleaves in order to help restore some of the native woodlands that have been lost over the centuries.

Fig1
Planting & Regeneration trends in Scotland's Woods & Forests since the 1950's



Source: Forestry Commission Scotland

SCOTTISH BORDERS FOREST AND WOODLAND RESOURCES

Woodland Cover & Type

Scottish Borders forms the eastern flank of the much larger and strategically important 'South Scotland and Northern England' forest area. This includes the neighbouring forests of Dumfries and Galloway to the west and Kielder Forest in Northumberland, with which the Region's own forests are contiguous along much of its south western boundary.

The total area of trees and woodland in Scottish Borders itself is 87,435 ha, equivalent to 18.5% of the land area, a dramatic increase from only 5% cover at the end of the Second World War. Scottish Borders ranks as the fourth most heavily wooded of the nine regions in mainland Scotland. (see Fig 2)

Fig2
Woodland Cover in Scotland

Region	Woodland Cover (%)
Dumfries & Galloway	26.8
Strathclyde	23.5
Central	20.1
Scottish Borders	**18.5**
Grampian	18.1
Tayside	13.8
Highland	13.6
Fife	11.6
Lothian	10.4

Source: FC National Inventory of Forests and Woodland 1999

Woodland Size & Distribution

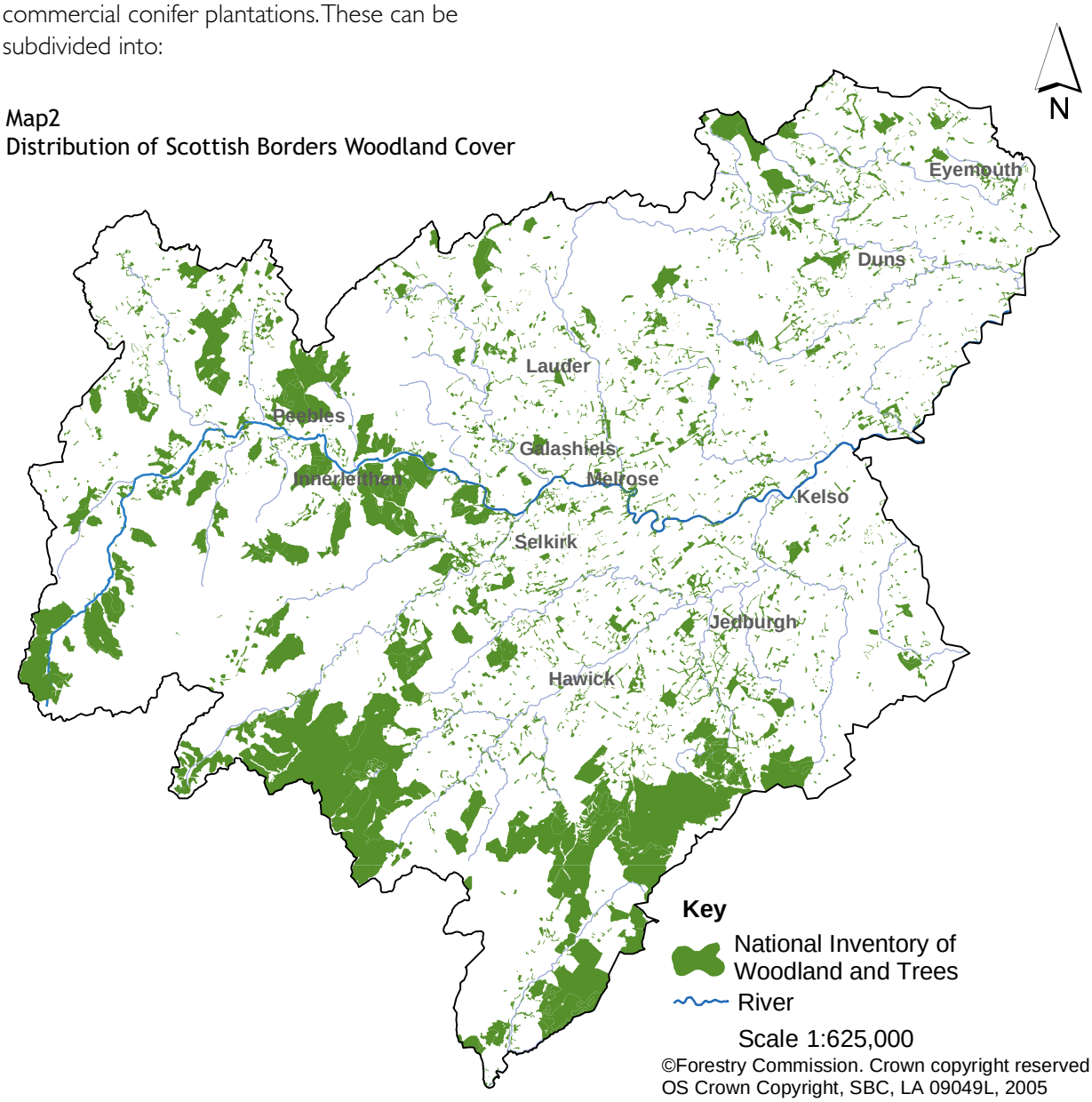
As at the baseline date of 1995 (FC National Inventory of Woodland 1999), there were an estimated 2,750 individual woodland blocks

(greater than 2 ha in size) located throughout the region. However, 3% of these blocks account for almost 80% of the total woodland cover, the majority comprising small woodlands of less than 100 ha. The overall average woodland size in Scottish Borders is 30 ha.

The pattern of woodland cover in Scottish Borders falls broadly within two key geographical areas (see Map 2). The western sector of the Region - bounded to the east by the A7 trunk road to Hawick and thereafter by the A6088 to Carter Bar - is characterised by large-scale upland commercial conifer plantations. These can be subdivided into:

- the forests of the Tweed Valley and Peeblesshire stretching towards the Region's north west boundary;
- the major forest blocks bounded by the Ettrick and Teviot Rivers which extend westwards from Selkirk and Hawick towards the regional boundary contiguous with the Eskdalemuir forest complex;
- the forests of Wauchope and Newcastleton adjoining Kielder Forest along the region's southernmost boundaries.

Map2
Distribution of Scottish Borders Woodland Cover



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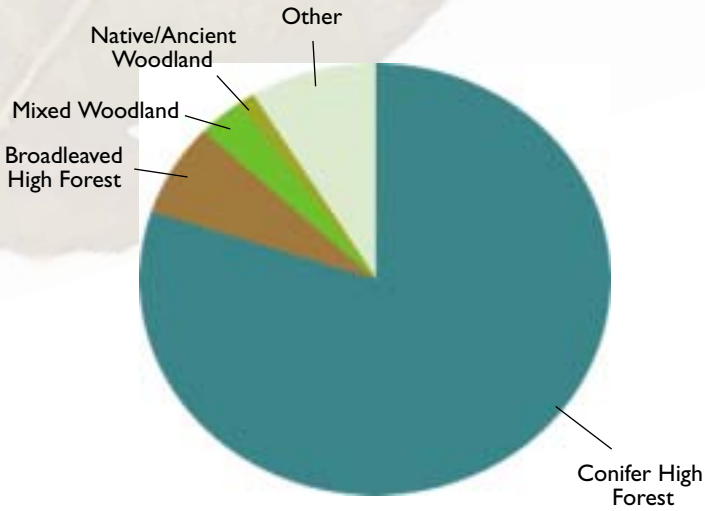
In marked contrast, woodland cover in the eastern sector of Scottish Borders is characterised predominantly by many hundreds of scattered, small-scale woodlands within a matrix of agricultural land, much of it being prime quality and arable (see Map 2). These stretch from the Cheviots in the south, across the central and eastern agricultural heartland of the Merse to the foothills of the Lammermuir Hills in the north.

Proportions of the main woodland types are shown in Fig 3. The relative proportions of broadleaved and coniferous woodlands are similar to those for the rest of Scotland. The predominance of conifers reflects, to a large degree, the intensive post-war afforestation programmes that focused on the use of fast growing conifers to replace the Region's severely depleted woodland resource. As in other areas of Scotland much of this afforestation is characterised by large-scale plantations on the poorer, more exposed upland sites. The main commercial conifer species are Sitka and Norway spruce, accounting for 76% of all conifers.

Fig3
Scottish Borders Woodland Types



Source: FC National Inventory of Forests and Woodland 1999

There is a wide range in age class structure of the Scottish Borders woodlands reflecting the historical and economic cycles of natural forest depletion and subsequent replenishment with plantations carried out over the past 150+ years. Some 65% of conifer crops are therefore in early production to mid rotation stages and are rapidly approaching a peak of economic maturity over the next 5 -10 years.

Growth Rates and Timber Quality

Soils and climate within Scottish Borders offer some of the most favourable growing conditions for commercial conifer crops in Britain. The average yield class for Sitka spruce (the Region's principal species) is approximately 16 compared to its national GB average of 12. However, a high proportion of the Borders commercial spruce plantations are located on the upland soils in the west of the Region where typically there are inherent constraints on growth of high quality crops associated with drainage, exposure and high 'windthrow' hazard. There is some concern within the industry regarding the quality of sawlog dimension timber that will be harvested from these plantations in rapidly increasing volumes over the next 10 -15 years.

Native Woodland Size & Distribution

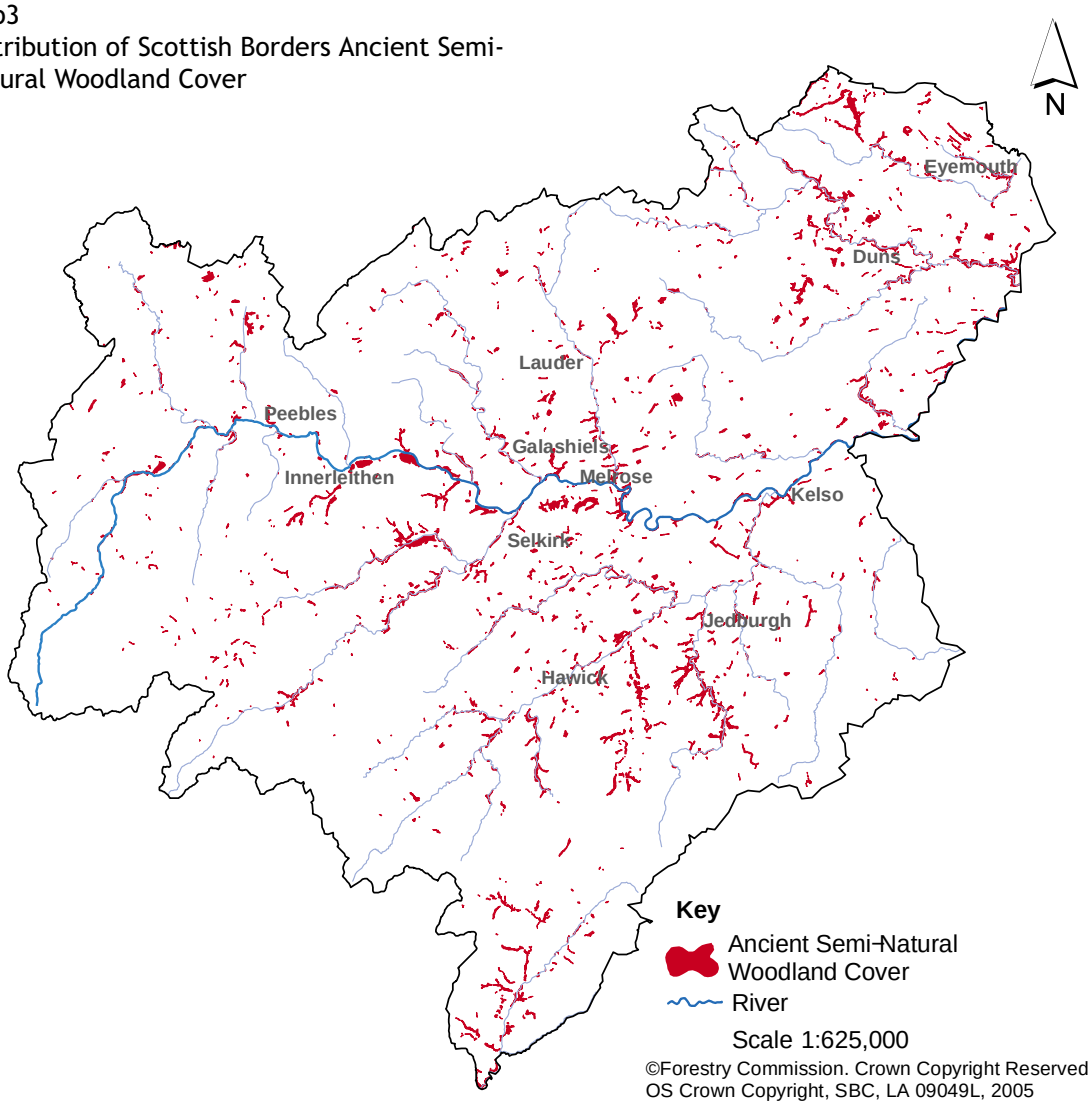
It is estimated that only 1.4% of the total woodland area comprises remnants of ancient and semi-natural woodland (see Map 3). This represents only 0.26% of total land area and compares unfavourably with other parts of Scotland. These fragments are characterised by their small size and are frequently associated with steep inaccessible slopes along watercourses. Many are degraded through long term overgrazing. Nonetheless they have an intrinsically high biodiversity value. Restoration of at least part of this lost resource is now an environmental priority.

According to the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan, the region has 20% of the species rich hedgerows in Scotland which makes this another key element of the woodland resource that requires careful conservation to retain their quality.

Recent Planting

The pattern of new planting between 1996 and 2002 (see Figs 4 & 5) reflects the Scottish Forestry Strategy's changed priorities for diversifying forest cover. Forestry Commission grant support facilitated through the former Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS), combined with changes in agricultural trends, farm

Map3
Distribution of Scottish Borders Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Cover



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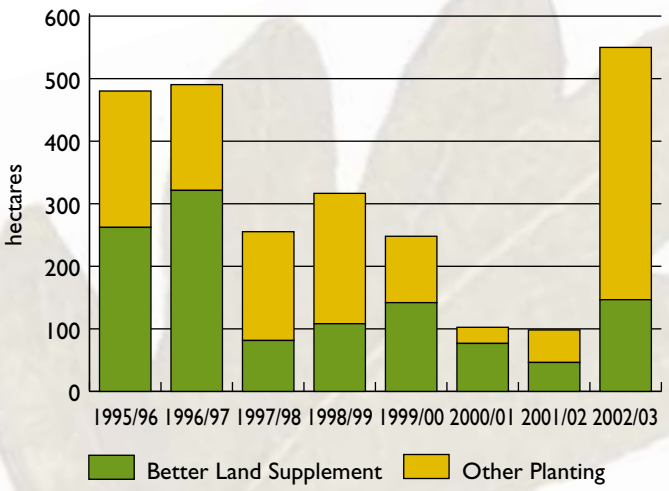
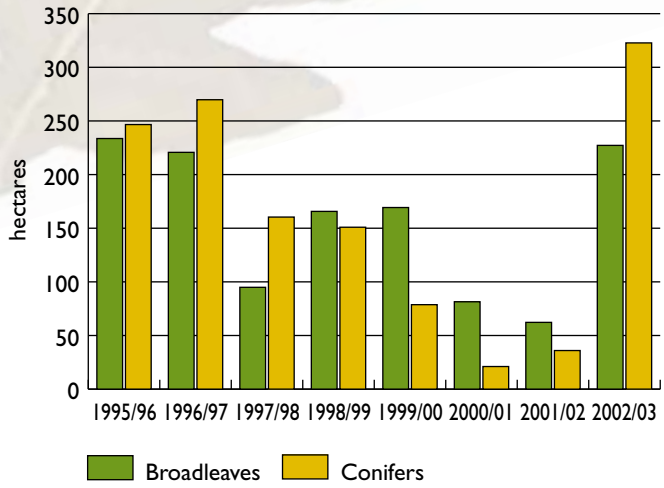
diversification and the fiscal changes directly impacting on large commercial planting, have all had an influence. There has been a substantial increase in the uptake of WGS in 2002/03 in advance of the new Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme and also a marked increase in the proportion of broadleaves being planted.

Fig4
Trends in uptake of new planting grant in Scottish Borders (conifers & broadleaves combined) 1995-2003



Source: FCS South Scotland Conservancy

Fig5
Pattern of new planting of conifers & broadleaves in Scottish Borders 1995-2003



Source: FCS South Scotland Conservancy

Forest Design & Restructuring

Forest expansion during the mid 20th century was often carried out with little regard to landscape design. The issue has now been addressed through development of best landscape practice, as set out in the UK Forestry Standard and the Forestry Commission's Forest Landscape Design Guidelines that will help ensure that new forests are designed and managed in ways that minimise adverse impacts. Many of the poorly designed, large scale, even-aged and single species forests that pre-dated the current guidelines are now being improved through a process of 're-structuring'. This integrates landscape design, ecology, and cultural resource management with planning for recreation, biodiversity and water quality to create restructured forests that are more diverse, attractive and usable. This process is already well under way within Scottish Borders.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

38% of Scotland's woodland resource is managed by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) to secure multiple benefits. Increasingly, local communities are being encouraged to become actively involved in the planning and management of the national forests. FCS policy for timber production is to carry out harvesting in line with published production forecasts so that the processing industries can predict future supplies and invest in future processing capacity with confidence.

The balance of 62% of Scotland's forest area is owned and managed by a wide variety of public and private sector organisations, businesses, communities and individuals. Evidence of increasing community activity is shown by the fact that there are now over 50 community woodland groups that own or manage some 22,000 ha of woodland in Scotland. With such a wide

spectrum of private ownership there is a correspondingly diverse range of management objectives. Whilst economic performance will be paramount for many, conservation and biodiversity enhancement are primary objectives for others, including many voluntary organisations. Social, local rural development, health and environmental benefits are also priorities for most community groups.

OWNERSHIP PATTERNS IN SCOTTISH BORDERS

Mirroring the national picture, two thirds of the Region's woodlands are privately owned. The remaining third is owned by the Forestry Commission Scotland and managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland. Forest Enterprise Scotland's woodlands are located almost exclusively within the western sector of the Region, and comprise mainly large commercial, multi-purpose conifer plantations within the Tweed Valley, parts of the Craik Forest complex in the Ettrick Valley and Newcastleton and Wauchope Forests in the south.

As in the rest of Scotland, the pattern of private woodland ownership within Scottish Borders is highly fragmented, with the exception of a number of key traditional estates that own and manage significant areas of woodland within the Region - principally Buccleuch, Roxburghe, Rosebery and Lothian Estates.

Together with traditional estates, private individuals own 43% of the total woodland area, whilst "investment forestry" (owned by financial institutions, pension funds etc) also accounts for a significant 24%, associated mainly with large-scale upland conifer woodlands. Charitable organisations such as the National Trust for Scotland, Woodland Trust Scotland and community woodland initiatives such as the Borders Forest Trust account for the balance of 2% of private ownership. Privately owned woodlands account for almost the entire woodland resource in the eastern sector.

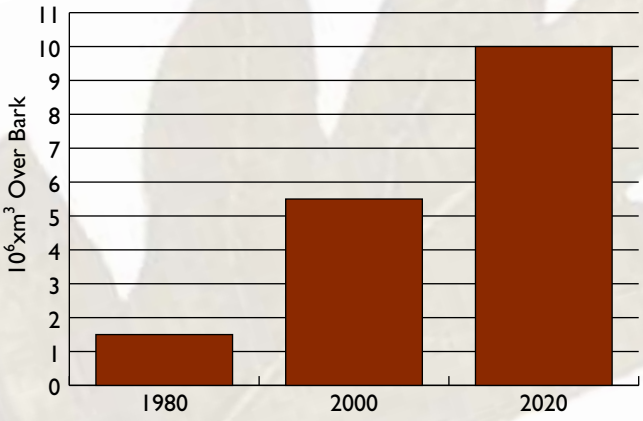
Community & Native Woodland Restoration Initiatives

As in other areas of Scotland over the past decade, there has been an expansion of projects in Scottish Borders aimed at increasing local community involvement in forests and woodlands. In Scottish Borders the emphasis on restoration of native woodland has been used as a key driver for establishing a stronger woodland 'culture' within the region at the community level. At the vanguard of this movement has been the Borders Forest Trust (BFT). An umbrella environmental charity formed in 1996, BFT now manages or facilitates more than twenty community woodlands (with a native woodland emphasis) and a range of native woodland and other habitat (such as juniper, montane scrub and floodplain) restoration projects throughout Scottish Borders.

TIMBER PRODUCTION IN SCOTLAND

Wood harvested from Scotland's forests rose from just over 1.5 million cubic metres (m^3) in 1980 to 5.5 million m^3 in 2000. With the major areas of forest planted in the 1970s and 1980s coming to maturity, the level of available wood production is forecast to approach 10 million m^3 in 2020 (see Fig 6).

Fig6
Trends in annual wood production from Scotland's forests 1980-2020



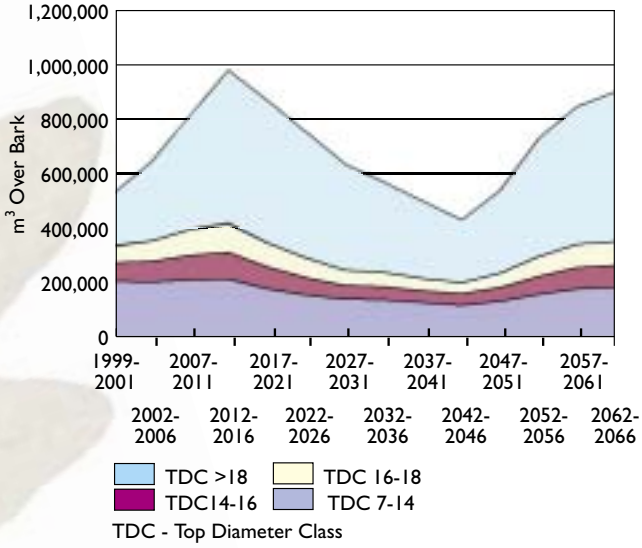
Source: Forest Industries Development Council

At present over half Scotland's wood harvest comes from woodland managed by Forestry Commission Scotland, but in future wood from privately owned forests will become increasingly dominant.

SCOTTISH BORDERS TIMBER PRODUCTION

Total annual softwood timber availability from Scottish Borders forests is forecast to rise dramatically from its current level of around 640,0000m^3 to some 975,000m^3 within the next 10 years (see Fig 7). A key feature of the forecast is the dramatic increase in the supply of sawlog dimension timber (shown in the figure as top diameter class to 18cm), expected to double relative to small roundwood. There will also be a marked increase in the proportion of softwood availability from Scottish Borders private sector growers. This is expected to rise to over 70% of total production by 2014.

Fig7
Scottish Borders Softwood Availability Forecast to 2066



Source: Forestry Commission 1999

SCOTLAND'S FOREST INDUSTRIES

Scotland's forest industries are networks of interdependent businesses. They include the forest owners, consultants and managers, the forest nurseries, contractors, hauliers; together with other businesses such as sawmills, wood-based panel mills, that rely on wood that is grown in Scotland. The sector also includes companies that import wood or wood products, for distributing and secondary processing, into items such as paper and furniture. It is estimated that all forestry-related businesses make a contribution of some £1.1 billion to the Scottish economy equivalent to about 2% of the total.

Total employment in Scotland's forest industries has grown by between 1.5 and 1.8 per cent per

year over the past 20 years and it is estimated that more than 40,000 jobs in Scotland (about 2% of the total) depend on the forest industries in the widest context. A key feature of the forest industries, particularly the contracting sector, is that significant numbers of people work in micro-businesses (i.e. those with 10 or less employees). Forestry-related jobs are particularly significant in remote and fragile rural areas where there may be few other employment opportunities and such jobs are essential to the sustainability of the communities they help support. However, the traditional role of forestry employment has changed considerably over the years, particularly with the mechanisation of forest operations. As the supply of raw material increases new technologies and markets have to emerge if the industry is to survive. Existing markets will have to adapt to external pressures, major changes within the industry will continue.

The increase in timber production referred to above has stimulated the massive investment of over £1billion over the last 20 years, particularly within the primary processing sector, to create today's modern Scottish wood-based industries which is widely recognised as being world class. In 2000 the Scottish Forestry Industries Cluster was formed as a partnership between the industries themselves and Scottish Enterprise to help facilitate achievement of the economical potential of the Scottish forestry sector through the action plan set out in its 'Roots for Growth' strategic framework. The overall aim of Roots for Growth is to create 1,000 new jobs and attract £100 million in new private sector investment in wood processing over the five years to 2005.

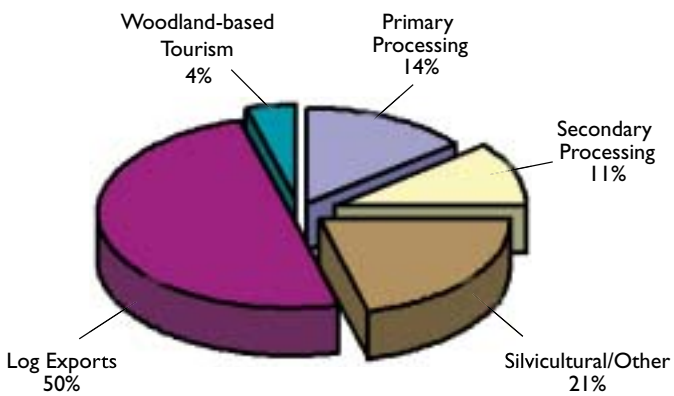
Wood Processing & External Markets in Scottish Borders

The wood processing industry in Scottish Borders comprises a number of small-scale sawmills, all using softwood as their major raw material and producing a range of sawnwood products principally to supply fencing and packaging/pallet markets. Total annual roundwood consumption is around 40,000m^3 or 7% of total softwood timber production from Scottish Borders forests. The balance of 90% is exported to key large-scale sawmills and other wood processing sites situated in neighbouring Dumfries and Galloway and Northumberland. As there are no panel or pulp/paper mills within Scottish Borders, virtually all the small roundwood and sawmill residues are also exported to markets outside the Region.

Contribution of the Forestry Sector to the Scottish Borders Economy

The 1999 Forestry Sector Baseline Study indicated that in 1997/98 the Scottish Borders forestry sector was estimated to be contributing £24million turnover to the Regional economy (see Fig 8). Of this total, one half was accounted for by timber harvested from Scottish Borders forests but processed outwith its boundaries. 25% of the forestry sector's turnover emanates from primary and secondary wood processing, the balance emanating from forest management, contracting and haulage and other forestry-related activities and woodland-based tourism.

Fig8
Contribution of the Forestry Sector to the Scottish Borders Economy (1997/98)



Source: CJ Piper & Co 1998

The forest industries in Scottish Borders make an important contribution to the local economy by providing employment across a wide spectrum of professional management, business, clerical, skilled technical as well as operational activities at the forest level. The Baseline Study also indicated at the time an estimated total employment in forestry-related activity within the Region of between 600 - 700 full time equivalents. However, the accuracy of this figure is sensitive to the estimate of number of contractors, many of whom are self employed and also work in the agriculture sector. The Scottish Borders forestry sector is typical of the business structure elsewhere in rural Scotland, being dominated by small businesses of which around three-quarters have less than 10 employees. There is nonetheless a core of high-calibre, well paid professional forest management and business related jobs within the Region.

Value Creation in the Scottish Borders Hardwood Sector

Inspired by a vision to combine the talent of young furniture designers and makers with the greatly undervalued low grade or waste hardwood from Scottish Borders woodlands, Woodschool was formed in 1997 as trading arm of Borders Forest Trust. Woodschool's ethos of 'value creation' has since gained wide recognition as a role model for the provision of a high quality niche alternative to mass produced, imported wooden product and the company continues to expand and diversify.

Sporting

Woodland based sporting activity such as deer stalking and pheasant shooting is an important part of the rural economy with links to the tourism sector. Sporting activity can also support woodland management through financial inputs and thereby help maintain and enhance the outstanding landscape value of Scottish Borders. In addition the sporting activity is a major component of activity to control pest species, including deer, grey squirrels and other herbivores which can otherwise impose major constraints on woodland management activity.

Woodland-based Tourism & Recreation

The forests and woodlands of Scottish Borders make a major contribution to the Region's landscape quality and therefore its inherent value as a tourism and recreation resource. However, their potential value to the tourism industry (although difficult to quantify) is currently under-exploited, particularly within the private sector that owns nearly 70% of the woodland area. Estimates indicate that of a total value to the Scottish Borders economy from tourism of £42million in 1997, some £1million per annum emanates from forestry-related recreational activities.

Forest Enterprise has developed a wide range of integrated recreational facilities, activities and events for visitors within its four major forest areas in Scottish Borders - Glentress, the Tweed Valley Forests in the north, and Newcastleton, Wauchope and Craik Forests in the south west. There are an estimated 150,000 visitor days to these Forest Enterprise forests per annum.
In the private sector, pro-active diversification into woodland-based recreation and visitor facilities has been carried out by the Region's large traditional estates like Buccleuch Estates (through its Countryside Service at Bowhill), Lothian Estates (with the Harestanes Countryside Visitor Centre) and Roxburghe Estates.

Regulation, Grant Support and Certification in Scotland

Forestry Commission Scotland acts as the Scottish Executive's forestry department, providing policy advice on forestry to Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament and regulating forestry practice through controls over felling of woodland and encouraging development through a system of grants. Certain forest

operations - in particular new planting and forest road construction - are also subject to the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 as part of EU legislation.

In 2003, the new Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) was launched to assist with the management of existing forests and to help create new woodland throughout Scotland. Additional grants known as Locational Premium have been made available for certain areas, the aim of which is to better target funding towards specific types of woodland planting or other activity as identified in strategic or regional documents such as the SBWS.

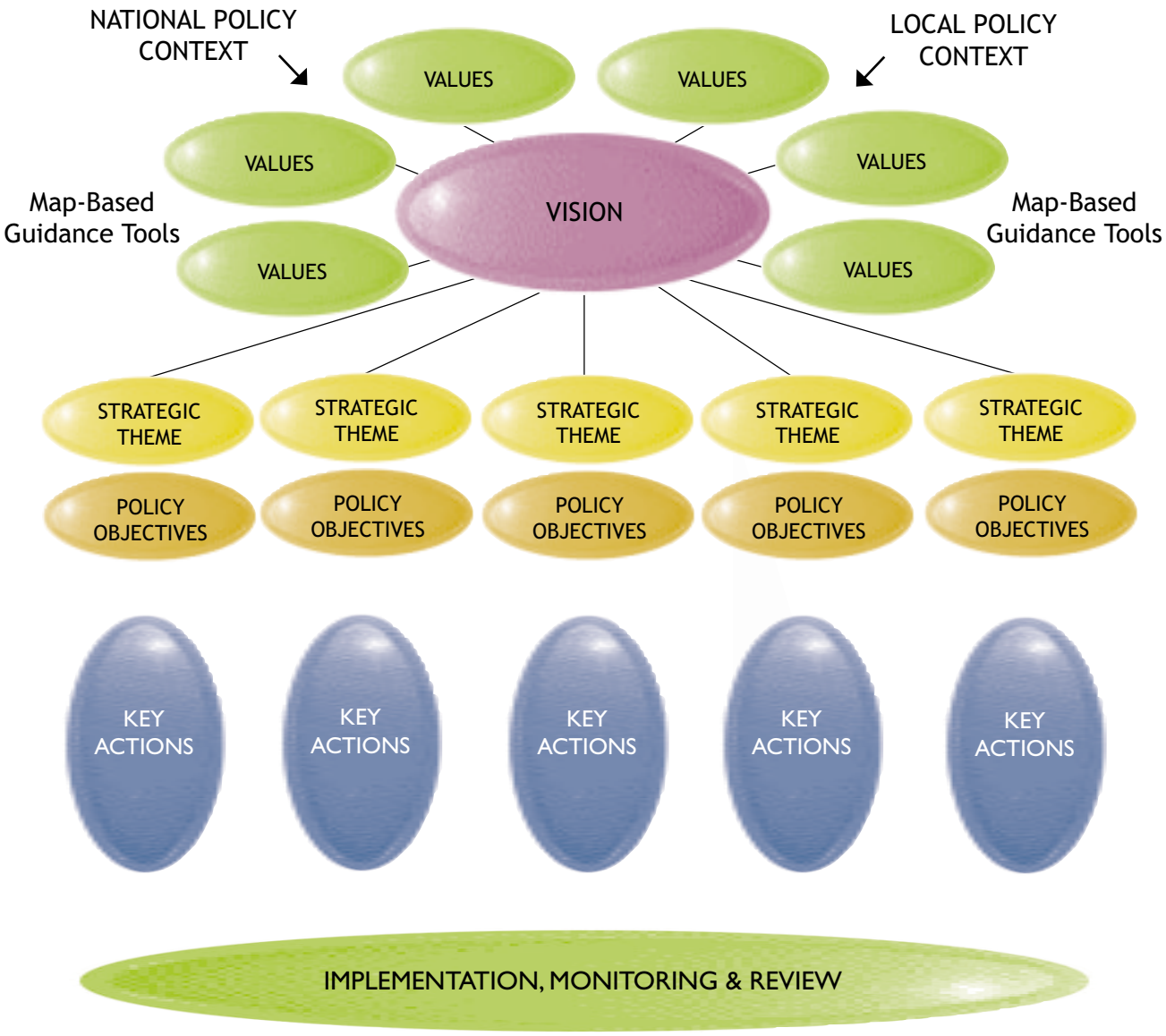
Over the past several years, there has been increasing interest - driven principally by the environmental non-government organisations - in developing independent third party forest 'certification'. Certification gives buyers an assurance that wood products come from forests that are 'sustainably' managed. A key requirement for certification is a standard against which the precise requirements for demonstrating sustainable management can be audited. In the UK a wide range of organisations came together to develop the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) that reflects the requirements of both the UK Forestry Standard and the national standard developed by the international Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). By 2002, 45% of Scotland's forests, including all those managed by the Forestry Commission, had been certified using the UKWAS.

Although an entirely voluntary procedure, there is increasing pressure on woodland owners to obtain certification in order to be able to retain access to those markets that demand certified timber. Also, it may be that in future criteria for eligibility and targeting of public funding for forestry will be more closely linked to certification as a means of demonstrating the national policy commitment to sustainable forest management.

Certification in Scottish Borders

At the strategic level, forest certification provides an important tool for delivering national forestry policy objectives for achieving sustainable forest management. At the regional level, the level of uptake of certification can also be used as a strong indicator of the environmental and social (as well as the economic) credentials of the woodland resource as well as providing significant operational benefits to woodland owners who proactively engage in the process. Whilst all Forestry Commission Scotland's woodlands (i.e. a third of the regional woodland resource), the main traditional estates and many of the larger scale commercial plantations in Scottish Borders are now certified, the level of uptake of certification elsewhere within the private sector remains low. This reflects the prevalence of fragmented, small-scale (less than 100 ha) woodlands in Scottish Borders for which the direct and indirect costs of certification to the woodland owner can be disproportionate to the benefits and thus act as a major disincentive.

Schematic representation of the process of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy:



VISION STATEMENT

"Trees, woodlands and forests will achieve their full potential as a natural resource, creating the environment that gives greatest benefit to the life and work of Borders people".

PART 3
STRATEGY VISION, VALUES & STRUCTURE

There are many reasons why tree cover may be a desirable form of land use. Trees can improve air quality and climate both locally and at the wider scale. Their roots bind the soil and reduce erosion and their leaves can contribute to soil quality. Trees help to regulate the rate of water run-off from land surfaces. Their timber provides fibre, is a construction material and also a source of energy. They create environments within which other species live and mature native type woodlands are amongst the richest biological habitats. Trees and woodlands also provide a scenic backdrop and setting for human activity and settlement and places for recreation and enhancement of health and well-being. Because of their ability to provide screening and shelter, trees and woodlands often help to reduce impacts, especially visual impacts, between adjoining land uses. Suitably sited and managed, woodlands can therefore offer an exceptional variety of benefits when compared to many alternatives.

The aim of this strategy is to obtain as many of these benefits as possible within Scottish Borders, whilst remaining mindful of other land interests. We will seek to achieve this by providing a positive framework that will encourage the wider forestry and woodland sector to:

- design new and manage existing woodlands in ways that protect and enhance the landscape, ecological and cultural richness of Scottish Borders as well as being capable of producing high quality timber;
- undertake a programme of woodland expansion, restoration and development of forest habitat networks that will lead to 25% woodland cover in the region over the next 50 years;
- help all woodland-related businesses to thrive, and diversify, and to retain and add value to existing and new woodlands in Scottish Borders on a sustainable basis;
- enhance the quality of life for everyone in Scottish Borders by restoring and strengthening a woodland culture;
- forge new linkages and partnerships between public agencies, businesses, local communities and other organisations, both within and beyond the boundaries of Scottish Borders, that will help raise the profile of the sector and thereby attract new skills and resources into the region;
- develop its skills, knowledge and competitiveness, raise standards and attract the future lifeblood of the forestry sector to Scottish Borders;
- provide an educational resource that will improve public understanding and appreciation of the significance of trees, woodlands and forests to people's well-being in Scottish Borders.

SUPPORTING VALUES

Achievement of the SBWS vision, strategic aims and policies will be successful if everyone involved in forestry applies the following values:

Sustainability

The forestry sector has a long history of applying the principles of sustainable development to day-to-day management, but this has not always been fully recognised. This Strategy therefore has a vital complementary role to play in promoting the contribution that the existing and future woodland resource of Scottish Borders can make to help deliver Scottish Borders Council's commitments in this area, as enshrined in the New Ways Forward Structure Plan.

Commitment to Quality

Trees and woodlands contribute greatly to the Scottish Borders landscape by attracting visitors and enhancing the quality of life. Nonetheless there is great potential to further the Strategy's vision by adding, or in some cases creating new values to the existing woodland resource. This can be achieved through high quality management, woodland restoration and new planting to deliver greater benefits and higher quality outputs. There are potential benefits to recreation and tourism, timber production, processing and utilisation, community involvement and through enhancement of the Region's visual, cultural and environmental heritage. To achieve such benefits, policy makers, agencies and organisations responsible for delivering this strategy, must work in partnership with woodland owners, practitioners and community groups. This requires a shared understanding of best management practices, and a common agenda for long-term improvement.

Integration

Scottish Border's trees, woodlands and forests do not exist in a vacuum. Obvious linkages exist between forestry and agriculture - both industries facing challenges from declining market prices, competition from imports, and the need to adapt to social and environmental pressures. For agriculture the implications of CAP reform could lead to changes in the pattern of land use that may directly affect the extent of forest cover. As well as being part of the Structure Plan and linking with the Scottish Forestry Strategy, closer integration between this strategy and the Region's other agriculture, community, environmental, and tourism programmes could greatly assist this process. Greater integration is also possible with the Council's urban and other planning policies, where trees and woods in and around Scottish Borders towns and settlements can greatly improve the quality of life for those who live and work there.

Community Involvement & Culture

Woodland can make a positive contribution to the quality of people's lives. Through community involvement, local people have an important role in helping woodland owners realise opportunities for economic development, recreation and preventative health care through greater access to fresh air, relaxation and exercise close to where they live. Scottish Borders Council recognises its own role in encouraging woodland management to provide a range of social benefits to the Region's communities.

Benefits accruing to people in the Borders are also accessible to people visiting the region. Tourism brings benefits to tourists as well as economic benefits. Management of existing trees, woods and forests in Scottish Borders, together with the creation of new woodlands, can confer benefits on large numbers of people from outside the region. Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy can thus have a positive impact far beyond Scottish Borders.

Partnership & New Connections

Scottish Borders Council alone cannot achieve this strategy. It will require involvement and commitment from all stakeholders and a flexible approach that embraces their wide range of interests, expertise and enthusiasm. Over recent years, new partnerships and interests, outside the traditional forestry sector, have become an increasingly important influence in the management and development of trees, woodlands and forests both at national and local levels. Such partnerships are important because they can bring new ideas and expertise and also harness new sources of private and public funding.

Being Opportunity-Focused

The Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy represents a fresh approach to the role and development of woodlands and forests as compared to the previous Indicative Forestry Strategy. There have been fundamental changes in attitude over the past two decades with a re-appraisal of economically driven, single objective forestry. There is now widespread recognition of the varied social, environmental and economic benefits that well considered multi-purpose forestry can bring. This is reinforced by changes in EU & UK legislation. In response, this strategy seeks to enshrine an integrated, partnership based approach that will further develop the full range of benefits that trees, woodlands and forests bring to the people of Scottish Borders. The strategy therefore focuses on opportunities, rather than constraints, in order to stimulate new ideas and real progress.

PART 4
STRATEGY THEMES, POLICY OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

INTRODUCTION

This part of the SBWS sets out the main strategic themes, policy objectives and key actions that will form the basis of Scottish Borders Council's support for the expansion and development of the trees, woodlands and forests sector in the region and the realisation of the SBWS vision.

STRATEGIC THEMES

A series of key issues and activities were identified in Part 1. These have been grouped under the following five broad themes:

Strategic Themes

1	Contributing to the sustainable development of the Scottish Borders economy
2	Expanding & diversifying the Scottish Borders woodland resource
3	Protecting and enhancing the Scottish Borders landscape, biodiversity & cultural heritage
4	The role of trees, woodlands and forests in contributing to the quality of life in Scottish Borders
5	Connecting people and communities with Scottish Borders trees, woodlands and forests

THEME 1
CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCOTTISH BORDERS ECONOMY

The key policy objectives for contributing to the sustainable development of the Scottish Borders economy are:

a. **To promote and encourage development of the Scottish Borders wood supply chain, product development and collaborative marketing.**
b. **To foster the development of wood-based renewable energy.**
c. **To continue to address issues associated with the regional timber transport infrastructure.**
d. **To help support a strong forestry sector network.**

Rural Economy, Timber Production, Processing & Utilisation

As the foregoing description of the Scottish Borders woodland resource demonstrates, the forestry sector makes an important and broadly based contribution to the Region's rural economy, with significant potential for growth. The sector provides a wide range of jobs, many of which are highly skilled and relatively well paid. In addition to primary timber production and processing, the presence and quality of the tree cover indirectly affects many other areas of economic activity including various aspects of tourism, leisure, agriculture and residential and commercial property development. The forest industry as a whole therefore offers opportunities to help meet sustainable rural development objectives.

A major factor for the development of the industry is the forecast considerable increase in available wood supply together with a substantial increase in sawlog dimension material. The private sector will make an increasing contribution to this overall timber production. However, the key issue remains that 90% of the available timber harvest in Scottish Borders continues to be exported as raw material, to be processed and have value added, outside the region.

Existing processing capacity in Scottish Borders is limited by its small scale and dispersed nature. Indeed, it has declined over the past decade. This situation is exacerbated by low world timber prices, with cheap imports, depressing UK timber prices to historically low levels. The situation is not predicted to improve significantly in the near future. These low prices are acting as major constraints on forest management activity and investment in wood processing.

Nevertheless, as identified in the Structure Plan (Policy E3: Timber Processing Facilities) and in view of the forecast considerable increase in softwood harvest from Scottish Borders forests, there is potential to add value to the local industry by processing more of this timber within the region. This potential will rise with any future increase in timber value or haulage costs.

In recent years, local initiatives - as exemplified by Woodschool at Ancrum - have successfully built new businesses in furniture design & production by creating value from hardwood resources that were previously left as waste. Developments in new timber related products and technologies, for both hard and soft wood, together with proximity to markets in Edinburgh and northern England, are highlighting further opportunities for creating new value from local timber by processing for fencing, house building and high quality furniture.

A developing and diversifying forestry sector will require new skills and potentially a larger labour force. Opportunities should be sought for retraining and developing new labour skills.

Key Actions: 1a

*(Policy Objective - To promote and encourage development of the Scottish Borders **W**ood **S**upply **C**hain, product development and collaborative marketing)*

Key Actions:

WSC1	Work with the forestry sector and other partners to develop and expand wood processing capacity at strategically located sites or clusters within Scottish Borders.
WSC2	Encourage the procurement and use of Scottish Borders timber for building construction & restoration, furniture, fencing, fuel and other purposes as a sustainable alternative to other materials imported into the region.
WSC3	Encourage Scottish Borders businesses to expand the production and competitiveness of 'value-added' timber products, using the image of Scottish Borders wood to support sustainability.

Wood-based Renewable Energy

As identified in the New Ways Forward Structure Plan, National Planning Policy guidance promotes a shift away from traditional energy sources, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, towards renewable sources. Harvesting and sawmill residues are increasingly being used elsewhere in Scotland as alternative materials to produce energy. Wood energy plants can be relatively small in size and the various technologies now available can allow generation close to harvesting locations. In addition, wood fuel is also suitable for heat recovery systems that provide both electricity and heat for housing schemes, local community facilities, hospitals and industrial units.

Wood-energy schemes in Scottish Borders have very significant potential for contributing to sustainable rural development by providing employment in the agricultural and forestry sectors as well as fostering new skills in renewable energy. Wood fuel production offers an alternative outlet for small roundwood and forest residues. This would have a beneficial impact in the face of difficult trading conditions elsewhere in the timber market and would help to stem the flow of raw material out of the Region.

Driven by the imperative to develop new markets for lower value forest products and with policy drivers such as the Scottish Community and Householder Renewables Initiative, current technical and market developments are poised to further increase the economic incentives to

develop the renewable energy potential of Scottish Borders. The Council is keen to encourage the use of these renewable energy technologies at the local level (see Structure Plan Policy I21). The forestry sector for its part is also eager to embrace opportunities for wood-based energy. Key actions will therefore include the need to develop a regional wood-energy strategy and integrate this with the Council's existing planning frameworks and also establish a sustainable and consistent wood fuel supply chain.

Opportunities may exist for wood-energy schemes to be utilised under the Scottish Borders PPP Schools programme and also through the development of any future proposed new settlements. Local community schemes are being piloted by Borders Forest Trust in the Ettrick and Yarrow valleys and by the Berwickshire Housing Association in Berwickshire.

Key Actions: 1b

*(Policy Objective - To foster the development of **W**ood-based **R**enewable **E**nergy)*

Key Actions:

WRE1	Develop a Regional Wood-Energy Strategy and integrate into the Council's strategy and planning frameworks, ensuring these recognise the benefits of wood as a key fuel source in the development of renewable energy projects.
WRE2	Work with the forestry sector and other partners to establish a sustainable wood fuel supply chain to service the development of local wood-based heat and energy facilities.

Timber Transport

Timber harvesting within Scottish Borders already involves significant movements of heavy lorries on minor rural roads. With the forecast increases in timber production - particularly from the large coniferous forests - there will be a corresponding rise in the volume of timber movements over the next 5 -10 years. At the same time, the structure of rural communities is changing with more cars on rural roads and more opportunities for conflict between timber hauliers and residents. This can create tension between local communities, woodland owners, timber haulage companies and impact upon the Council's road maintenance programmes. The transportation of timber through urban areas is also highlighted as a major safety and environmental concern.
A Scottish Borders 'Preferred Routes Agreement' has been adopted to help mitigate the problems associated with present and future timber movements. This is being taken forward by the Borders Timber Transport Forum - a partnership between the forest industry and Scottish Borders Council (see Structure Plan Policy I10). The Agreement identifies a series of routes which

owners and hauliers have agreed to use in preference to other less suitable routes. This helps Scottish Borders Council to prioritise expenditure in road maintenance, upgrading, traffic management and safety.

Key Actions: 1c

*(Policy Objective - To continue to address issues associated with the **R**egional **T**imber **T**ransport infrastructure)*

Key Actions:

RTT1	Encourage further implementation, improvement and review of the Scottish Borders 'Preferred Routes Agreement' in light of forecast production increases.
RTT2	Address timber transport issues through continued support of the Borders Timber Transport Forum and co-ordination with the national timber transport forum, and through liaison with rural communities.
RTT3	Seek investment to mitigate impacts of predicted increases in timber traffic.
RTT4	Work with the forestry sector and others to implement WSC1 in order to reduce timber transport through more localised processing.
RTT5	Work with the Forestry Sector and others to develop internal haul roads in order to remove timber traffic from the most unsuitable minor roads.

Forestry Sector Support Network

The Scottish Borders Forestry Action Group was dissolved in early 2004 and was superseded by the South Scotland Forest Industries Cluster, incorporating the Dumfries and Galloway Forestry Action Group and representatives from Ayrshire. This reflects wider strategic perspectives to pool resources and address common economic development issues, under the umbrella of the Scottish Forest Industries Cluster sponsored by Scottish Enterprise.

Scottish Borders hosts Scotland's Timber Marketing Group, which was set up in the late 1990s, by a number of private woodland owners. It promotes the planning and marketing of future timber production in a co-ordinated way. There is also a South of Scotland Sawmiller's Forum established to raise interest in new timber processing developments within the industry and to advise Scottish Enterprise, particularly in relation to forest products marketing.

Forestry Commission Scotland introduced structural changes to its Conservancy boundaries in June 2004. There are now five Conservancies reduced from the previous six. A new South Scotland Conservancy now encompasses Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway and East & South Ayrshire.

Also in 2004, Forestry Commission Scotland established five new advisory Regional Forestry Forums, representing a wide spectrum of economic, environmental and social stakeholders. These Forums coincide geographically with the revised Conservancy boundaries. (In addition, one Scotland-wide Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be formed from members of the Regional Forums to deal with the statutory requirements of the Forestry Acts.).

Partnerships & making new connections as drivers for change

Over recent years, new partnerships, with groups outside the traditional forestry sector, have become increasingly important, at both national and local level. This can bring new ideas and expertise and introduce new sources of private and public funding. Examples include development of forestry for renewable energy from wind farms and woodfuel, healthy living and provision of affordable housing.

Cross Linkages with the Scottish Borders Structure Plan & other Regional Economic Development Strategies

The SBWS has the potential to become a key document not only reflecting national forestry policy, but also raising the policy profile of Scottish Borders forestry locally. This will be achieved by supporting the New Ways Forward Structure Plan. New opportunities will also arise for the promotion of the forestry sector with other key sectors such as tourism, and with other strategies, such as the Regional Economic Strategy, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and the New Ways Community Plan.

Key Actions: 1d

*(Policy Objective - To help support a strong **F**orestry **S**ector **N**etwork)*

Key Actions:

FSN1	Contribute to development of the wider forestry business network at regional and pan-regional levels through participation by SBC in the South Scotland Regional Cluster Group and the South Scotland Regional Forestry Forum.
FSN2	Promote the Scottish Borders forestry sector in contributing to sustainable development through cross linkage with the tourism sector, New Ways Regional Economic Development Strategy and Community Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan and other key regional strategies.
FSN3	Help build the capacity of the forestry sector by strengthening existing and enabling new partnerships.

THEME 2
EXPANDING AND DIVERSIFYING THE SCOTTISH BORDERS WOODLAND RESOURCE

The key policy objectives for expanding & diversifying the Scottish Borders woodland resource are:

a. **To encourage the expansion of high quality woodland cover of appropriate scale, character and purpose throughout Scottish Borders to achieve the optimum balance of land uses.**
b. **To deliver where possible, the targets set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy.**
c. **To promote best practice in sustainable woodland management that will provide the region with a high quality, diverse and multi-benefit resource.**
d. **To support opportunities for more integration of farming with forestry where this makes a positive contribution to land-use diversification and rural development.**

Expansion of Woodland Cover

Scottish Borders had, several thousand years ago, almost total woodland cover. However, human activity has massively reduced that to such an extent that less than 0.3% of Borders land area now supports tree cover of 'semi-natural' origin. This has profoundly altered the landscape character of the area.

The national aspiration under the Scottish Forestry Strategy is to expand woodland cover in Scotland to 25% of land area by 2050 which is comparable to many north European countries. Subject to the identified opportunities and constraints, the SBWS will seek to deliver the national target at regional level by aiming to increase woodland cover in Scottish Borders from the present 18.5% (87,746 ha) to around 25% (118,575 ha) of land area.

Nonetheless, woodland expansion must be focused on the principle of "planting the right trees in the right places, for the right reasons". In many cases these might be native species, but whatever their type and location, integration with other land uses and the practice of multi-benefit forestry will be crucial to the future quality of the Region's trees, woodlands and forests. The UK Forestry Standard, FC best practice guidelines and the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme set out the essential requirements for sustainable forest management. These will underpin the strategy for future woodland expansion.

In that Scottish Borders was once almost completely wooded, and considering the various benefits that woodlands offer, it can be argued that there is a 'de facto' justification for woodland expansion, of appropriate type, almost anywhere

in the Region. The exception being where woodland expansion would be in direct conflict with other land use priorities or sensitivities, including important open-space habitats and those species that depend upon an absence of trees. The capacity and suitability of land for well-designed, new woodland varies. It also depends upon the management objectives of each landowner.

Many 'designated' areas, such as Areas of Great Landscape value, National Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and National Scenic Areas are sensitive to change. Extra care is necessary in such locations. However, planting of an appropriate scale, type and objective need not necessarily be precluded. Indeed, it could enhance the area concerned. Other, non-designated areas such as certain bogs, heathlands and species rich grasslands are valued as open-space habitats. Prime agricultural land in the east of the Borders, is too valuable to be extensively planted, although smaller scale planting may be beneficial.

Whilst there will inevitably be constraints that must be taken into account in all areas, a key role of the SBWS is to identify areas of opportunity for woodland expansion according to parameters of scale, composition and objectives. For example, the concept of 'island biogeography' has identified the importance of inter-connections between areas of similar habitat. A priority in creating new native woodlands will therefore be to link the heavily fragmented remains of Scottish Borders ancient and semi-natural woodlands, often along watercourses, to safeguard and restore these important woodland habitats and dependent species.

Woodland expansion has an important role to play in increasing the diversity of the farmed landscape. Greater integration of farming and forestry will assist sustainable rural development following CAP reform and other structural changes to the farming sector. New woodlands can also enhance the capital value of farmland as well as improving overall environmental quality.

New woodlands and trees can bring particular benefits in urban areas and on the urban fringe by providing opportunities for healthy exercise and recreation and by giving urban residents contact with the natural environment thus helping to improve environmental awareness and education. They also improve the landscape setting around towns and villages and contribute to air and water quality.

Climate change and the Scottish Borders Forest Strategy

Trees, woods and forests make an important contribution in absorbing carbon dioxide, one of the main 'greenhouse gases' responsible for climate change, storing the carbon in stems and the soil, and at the same time producing oxygen. As trees grow, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is fixed as carbon within plant organic matter (carbon accounts for about 50% of the weight of dry biomass).

It is projected that by 2010 forests planted since 1990 will be taking up (absorbing from the atmosphere) an average of 0.4 million tonnes of carbon (Forests for Scotland, The Scottish Forestry Strategy (2000). However, the rate of carbon uptake is falling because of a recent decline in the annual level of forest establishment through new planting.

Scottish Borders contribution to mitigating climate change involving forestry can be enhanced through increased planting of new woods and forests, selective planting in water catchment management, the use of forest bio-energy as a replacement for fossil fuels and the substitution of 'carbon intensive materials' such as cement and steel with timber and wood products. A number of landowners and community groups in Scottish Borders have benefited financially from 'trading' forest carbon, from new native woodland planting to companies responsible for emitting greenhouse gases.

Key Actions: 2a

(Refer also to 'Opportunities for Woodland Expansion' at end of Part 4)

(Policy Objective - To encourage the expansion of high quality woodland cover of appropriate scale, character and purpose throughout Scottish Borders to achieve the optimum balance of land uses)

Key Actions:

EWC1	Encourage woodland expansion throughout Scottish Borders that is appropriate to location and that will deliver the aims and objectives of the SBWS, meet the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard and relevant Forestry Commission guidelines and have regard to the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
EWC2	Target existing and seek additional locational funding that will encourage planting of new large and small scale multi-benefit, native, riparian and urban fringe woodlands particularly in the areas identified by the SBWS as being 'preferred' or 'potential'.
EWC3	Seek opportunities to help deliver Scotland's contribution to reducing global carbon emissions and take steps to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Key Actions: 2b

*(Policy Objective - To deliver where possible the targets set out in the **S**cottish **F**orestry **S**trategy)*

Key Actions:

SFS1	Encourage woodland expansion throughout Scottish Borders that will attain the national target of 25% of land cover by 2050 from the current level of 18.5%.

Best Practice in Management of Existing Woodland

There are marked differences between the forest resources in the eastern and western Borders. In the western half of Scottish Borders, mostly in the uplands, a process of restructuring of the large scale, conifer forests is well under way. This is a medium to long term process intended to develop more diverse and attractive forests and to add biodiversity value. Where restructuring is not yet taking place there is a presumption, that appropriate forest design will be carried out, under the terms of UK Forest Standard, FC best practice guidelines and the other mechanisms that regulate felling and restocking. There is still significant potential to improve the landscape value of small and larger scale plantations in Scottish Borders, especially where these are characterised by intrusive and inappropriately shaped forest edges.

In the eastern Borders, the size and distribution of much of the woodland resource, limits its economic value and opportunities for diversification. Widely fragmented woodlands are comparatively more costly to manage. Long haulage distances add to harvesting costs, which can become 'prohibitive'. This in turn has a negative impact on 'on-going' care of the woodland.

There may be certain locations in Scottish Borders where conifer plantations established for earlier commercial or other objectives are now recognised as having impinged inappropriately on the sensitivity of an area, for which one solution would be to permanently remove the woodland cover.

Alternatives to Clear Felling

UK forest practice over the past century - particularly because of the site factors encountered in the uplands - has tended to be dominated by the system of plantation, clear cutting and re-stocking. Whilst this approach does have some merits, it can potentially cause major visual impacts, disrupts stand development and limits biodiversity. Alternatives that avoid clear-felling are based on more natural processes, such as selection felling and natural regeneration. These offer opportunities to develop a more varied forest age structure with a much more diverse forest ecosystem. The visual detraction of large scale felling is eliminated and, in some situations, soil erosion is prevented and stream run-off characteristics are maintained.

However, these benefits do have to be balanced against the costs of delaying income from larger scale felling. Widespread adoption of continuous cover forestry is also limited in upland sites by windthrow hazards due to exposure and shallow and/or wet soils. They also require higher management effort because more stringent herbivore control is needed to establish natural regeneration. Nevertheless, because of the diverse environmental benefits, opportunities for conversion of plantation systems towards some form of continuous cover forestry should be encouraged, especially on sheltered sites and well drained soils. Where this involves natural regeneration in place of artificial re-stocking, appropriate herbivore management, through deer management plans, will be required.

Key Actions: 2c

*(Policy Objective - To **P**romote **B**est **P**ractice in sustainable woodland management that will provide the region with a high quality, diverse and multi-benefit resource)*

Key Actions:

PBP1	Support best practice in managing existing woodlands as set out in the UK Forestry Standard and other FC guidance.
PBP2	Support well designed restructuring proposals that relate forests to landform through forest edge and other landscape improvements, create mixed age and species woodland and enhance biodiversity.
PBP3	Support the permanent removal of inappropriate plantations where this would be beneficial in terms of landscape, biodiversity or other environmental gains.
PBP4	Promote, where appropriate, movement away from clearfelling systems to lower impact continuous cover silviculture.
PBP5	Encourage wider uptake of forest certification, particularly in small private woodlands, through the FCS/Leader+ Programme, to promote local use of timber from sustainably managed woodlands.
PBP6	Promote natural regeneration as a means of forest re-stocking in conjunction with the use of appropriate herbivore management plans.

Certification

Although around 60% of Scottish Borders forest area is certified, this represents only a small proportion of the smaller scale woodland owners. This is significant, especially as timber production in Scottish Borders is anticipated to swing from Forestry Commission Scotland forests to the private sector over the next 5 - 10 years. Anticipated demand for certified timber means that the current high proportion of uncertified private sector woodlands in Scottish Borders are risking isolation from the timber market and loss of environmental credibility. There are barriers deterring woodland owners from taking up certification. These include uncertainty about its justification, particularly in terms of current market demand; lack of understanding of the process, and the potentially disproportionate costs of certifying small woodlands.

In recognition of these issues, Scottish Borders was selected in 2004 as the location for a pilot project. This encourages uptake of certification against the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme but specifically targeting 'small', i.e. less than 100 ha, privately owned woodlands, managed by individuals, small businesses and community groups. The 3 year £160,000 project, funded by FCS and the EU Leader+ Programme, uses reduced auditing procedures. It is hoped that the certification gained will also benefit other local businesses in the supply chain through marketing of certified timber from local sources.

Future ownership and management of the Forestry Commission Scotland forest estate

In August 2003 a review was undertaken of the national forest estate at the instigation of the minister. This involved the publication of a public consultation paper 'Review of Land Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland' supported by a series of workshops and public meetings throughout the country.

In addition in November 2004 a Public consultation paper was published 'The National Forest Land scheme' seeking views on potential mechanisms to facilitate the potential provision of national forest land to communities and for affordable housing.

Integration of farming with forestry through diversification of land-use and rural development

The Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture and the subsequent report of the 'Agricultural and Environment Working Group Custodians of Change' identified opportunities for cross-cutting delivery of initiatives for diffuse pollution, biodiversity, landscape and climate change. The Forward Strategy promotes rural diversification and the need for farm businesses to diversify and to look for new employment and business opportunities. With the onset of CAP reform the boundaries between farming and forestry may become less distinct. This could provide new opportunities for integrated land-management and a range of business opportunities for land managers.

Key Actions: 2d

*(Policy Objective - To support opportunities for more integration of farming with forestry where this makes a positive contribution to **L**and **U**se **D**iversification and rural development)*

Key Actions:

LUD1	Encourage the uptake of farm woodland options under SFGS and RSS and Land Management Contracts as they develop.
LUD2	Encourage the development of farm woodland-related business opportunities under farm business diversification schemes and the Rural Development Plan.

THEME 3
PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE SCOTTISH BORDERS LANDSCAPE, BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The key policy objectives under this Theme are:

a. **To promote the role of trees, woodlands and forests in protecting and enhancing the Region's natural and designed landscapes.**
b. **To promote the role of trees, woodlands and forests in protecting and enhancing the Region's archaeological and other cultural heritage legacy.**
c. **To protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the Scottish Borders woodland resource.**
d. **To promote the role of trees, woodlands and forests in the management, protection and enhancement of the Region's water resources.**

Enhancing the Scottish Borders Landscape

Scottish Borders is widely renowned for the variety of its landscapes, many of which are very highly valued. Trees, woodlands and forests are essential elements of a significant number of these landscapes. The original native forest has almost entirely been lost over several thousand years of human activity. The restoration of at least part of this lost resource would create new landscapes that are likely to become highly valued in a wider environment that is increasingly dominated by human impacts.

In the 17th century, after the end of the Border Wars, a process of land and property improvement began and continues in a modified form today. Much of the existing mature tree cover in the Borders is the result of this process, especially in the policy woodlands and designed landscapes of the large estates. Many of the veteran and hedgerow trees, shelterbelts and copses of the agricultural lowlands and the areas around settlements also date from this period. With appropriate management and maintenance these areas could be significant sources of timber for the specialist timber market whilst continuing to contribute to the Region's environmental and historic fabric. Scottish Borders also has a large number of 'designed landscapes' both designated and unlisted and many of these would benefit from management and restoration. In addition, trees, woodlands and forests provide screening and setting for the built environment and along transportation corridors. This is particularly important in the Borders where development pressure must be reconciled with the Region's high landscape and tourism values.

Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and trees in Conservation Areas benefit from protection which is enacted by the Council through statutory powers.

The uplands largely remained unplanted until the 20th century when 'large scale' afforestation was commenced in response to post war shortages of timber. Significant areas were planted with extensive even aged conifer plantations creating an entirely new and very raw landscape type. During this process, there was some damage to the pre-existing biodiversity and archaeology. These 'new landscapes' are now gradually maturing and their continued development and integration, particularly through the process of re-structuring through 'Long Term Forest Plans', has now become one of the major processes of landscape change. One outstanding re-structuring issue is the treatment of the edges of

some of the large plantations. These are frequently the most visible external features, and can present hard straight edges adjoining neighbouring land outwith the forest owner's control. New planting on the adjoining area or permanent removal of groups of trees along these edges, will help mitigate the problem.

Key Actions: 3a

*(Policy Objective - To promote the role of trees woodlands and forests in protecting and enhancing the Regions **N**atural and **D**esigned **L**andscapes)*

Key Actions:

NDL1	Promote the development and restoration of native and other woodland as a means of enhancing the landscape and providing a visual structure for other land uses.
NDL2	Encourage the planting and maintenance of policy woodlands shelterwoods, copses, hedges and hedgerow trees where these will contribute to the fabric and appearance of the farmed landscape.
NDL3	Support proposals for well-designed new planting, re-stocking and restructuring that meet FC Forest Landscape Design principles and take opportunities to improve the attractiveness of the landscape with particular emphasis on improving forest edges.
NDL4	Encourage, and target funding towards, long term plans for sustainable woodland management within Historic Gardens, Designed Landscapes and other Policy woodlands, including the potential to achieve small scale but high quality timber production.
NDL5	Support well designed new planting and management of existing trees and woodlands that will contribute to the setting of the built environment and transport corridors.

Archaeology & Cultural Heritage

Archaeology and cultural heritage are non-renewable resources that are potentially vulnerable to damage or permanent loss due to inappropriate planting or other woodland management activity. There is a very extensive archaeological legacy across Scottish Borders. Some of this resource has statutory protection through designations such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), but much does not. The Forestry Commission's Archaeological Guidelines are in place as a best practice guide for forest managers to help prevent damage to the archaeological heritage and to cross comply with conditions for grant support. Some owners and occupiers are unaware of the presence of archaeological features in their forests or on land that may be earmarked for future planting.

There is a significant cluster of designated and non-designated archaeological sites situated within the Cheviot Hills and the archaeological status of this area with respect to the creation of new and future management of existing woodlands is a key issue. Other parts of the Borders are also archaeologically sensitive, for instance, the Tweed Valley and western Liddesdale. In the Cheviots and elsewhere in Scottish Borders, where archaeological sites and existing woodlands coincide or are in close proximity, there may be opportunities to develop a positive synergy through new tourism, recreational and education opportunities, particularly at the felling and re-stocking stages.

Key Actions: 3b

*(Policy Objective - To promote the role of trees, woodlands and forests in protecting and enhancing the Region's **A**rchaeological and other **C**ultural **H**eritage legacy)*

Key Actions:

ACH1	Ensure that cultural heritage sites are safeguarded through compliance with the Forestry Commission's Forests & Archaeology Guidelines.
ACH2	Help owners and occupiers understand the significance of their archaeological assets, identify and publicise individual or clusters of sites of archaeological interest that offer opportunities to enhance their cultural/tourism value in conjunction with appropriate woodland creation and/or existing woodland management.

Biodiversity

The original native forest in Scottish Borders has been almost entirely lost through clearing followed by over grazing with only tiny remnants still existing, many of these being found in steep narrow valleys or 'cleuchs' or other areas that are inaccessible or of little agricultural value. The conservation and restoration of these woodland features is crucial to the maintenance of many of the Borders most highly valued habitats and landscapes and is a high environmental priority within the SBWS.

The principal aim of the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for woodlands is to promote integrated habitat networks. Priority woodland habitats include native woodland, wood pasture & parkland, coniferous woodland, upland montane scrub & cleuch woodland. Other key habitats that need to be integrated into the SBWS include upland heath, farmland, rivers & burns, open standing water, lowland raised bogs and urban habitats. Key requirements of priority species dependent on woodland and other priority habitats must also be integrated within the SBWS.

Protection and enhancement of ancient woodlands and restoration of planted ancient woodland sites

The Borders contains only a small and fragmented remaining area of our ancient woodland, some of which has been planted upon. The Forest Habitat Network of the region consists of the ancient, long established and semi-natural woodland and semi-natural woodland with a high native species component (as defined in the Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory) and accounts for only 1.4% of the land area of Scottish Borders. A component of this, the Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) account for 0.3% of the land area of the Borders.

Deer browsing on coppice regrowth.

Many of these sites have the potential for restoration. The existing Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme has prescriptions designed to enhance the management and expansion of the native woodland Forest Habitat Network through natural regeneration, planting, conversion and restoration. The biodiversity value of existing native woodlands in Scottish Borders is highly variable and depends on the ecological 'condition' of the woodlands. It will be important to prioritise action on those sites where management is likely to have a significant positive impact or is urgently required to prevent further decline of biodiversity. Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are an example of the kind of sites where appropriate restoration will facilitate the return of native species to these sites. The Forest Habitat Network in Scottish Borders has been modelled by Forest Research (Ray et al. 2003). This study indicated that the rules adopted by the SFGS could deliver a significant amount of the Scottish Borders component of the UKBAP targets for wet woodland, upland oakwood and juniper. It is hoped that additional resources can be targeted at ancient, semi-natural and planted ancient woodland sites in Scottish Borders to ensure that these and other UKBAP and LBAP targets can be met.

Herbivore Management

As in other areas of Scotland, the impact of deer can pose a serious threat to the ecological integrity of woodlands. Other herbivores including voles, rabbits, hares, grey squirrels and feral livestock can also impose severe restraints on woodland management by causing unacceptable levels of damage - and thus economic loss - to growing stock, preventing or destroying natural regeneration and reducing timber quality. Protection against herbivores can therefore impose a significant additional financial burden on woodland owners.

Roe deer are present throughout the Borders and are thought to be increasing. Sika deer are present in much of the western part of the region and are spreading eastwards, whilst feral sheep and goats are also present in some areas. Rabbit and vole densities can be very high and there are particular problems associated with grey squirrels, which, in addition to causing damage to trees, also pose a threat to indigenous red squirrels.

Over the last decade, the increased emphasis on woodland restoration and planting for environmental reasons has led to a significant increase in broadleaved tree planting and regeneration. This change has in turn focussed attention on woodland ecology and there is increasing awareness of the problems associated with uncontrolled herbivores, particularly where they are not subject to any natural predation. Wherever woodland cover is expanded or maintained, herbivore management is therefore an important consideration.

The Deer Commission for Scotland is the non-Departmental Public Body charged with furthering the conservation, control and sustainable management of all species of wild deer in Scotland, and keeping under review all matters, including welfare relating to wild deer. The role of the DCS together with co-ordinated action in partnership with the forestry sector that improves the understanding and effectiveness of this key aspect of maintaining and enhancing the Scottish Borders woodland resource - in particular the important role of Deer Management Groups and deer management plans - will be encouraged.

Key Actions: 3c

*(Policy Objective - To **P**rotect and **E**nhance the **B**iodiversity value of the Scottish Borders woodland resource.*

Key Actions:

PEB1	Maximise opportunities for native and riparian woodland to contribute to the objectives of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for woodlands.
PEB2	Create strategic links between otherwise fragmented native woodlands by targeting expansion of ancient, native and riparian woodland to fit in with the existing Forest Habitat Network in Scottish Borders and neighbouring regions.
PEB3	With appropriate partners target existing and seek additional funding to manage, restore and expand Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), native and riparian woodlands within the habitat networks identified as "preferred" areas in Map 7.
PEB4	Support proposals to restore and expand areas of montane scrub within or adjacent to upland woodlands where this is consistent with the objectives of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
PEB5	Ensure that there is an effective, collaborative mechanism in place for the management and control of deer, grey squirrels and other herbivores to protect the economic and ecological integrity of the woodland resource.
PEB6	Encourage the sensitive management and expansion of woodland and woodland associated habitat, ensuring consideration of the requirements of other non-woodland priority habitats and species identified in the Scottish Borders LBAP.
PEB7	Adopt the Forest Habitat Network principles and target funding to protect and enhance the Forest Habitat Network in Scottish Borders.
PEB8	Encourage the protection and enhancement of the ancient woodland and planted ancient woodland sites in Scottish Borders through the delivery of the LBAP Native Woodland Habitat Action Plan.

Water Catchment Management

It is widely recognised that large-scale commercial conifer plantation forestry has in the past contributed to changes in water quality. Certain types of forest drainage, new planting in areas sensitive to acidification and subsequent fertilisation and harvesting operations, can all be damaging. Soil erosion, sedimentation and the pollution that can arise from inappropriate forestry operations can adversely affect watercourses. Changes to flow rates and shading affect aquatic life, fisheries, and users of the water supply. Modern forestry best practice as required by the Forestry Commission Forests & Water Guidelines should ensure improved water quality.

It is now widely recognised that appropriate tree cover can have a beneficial influence on the water quality and run-off characteristics of river catchments. Appropriate tree planting can also offer significant benefits to flood plain management, helping to slow down run-off and provide long term barriers to flooding as well as helping to enhance stream biodiversity. This can also help deliver the promotion of sustainable flood management under section 2 of the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003.

Targets have been set in the Tweed Catchment Management Plan and Local Biodiversity Action Plan. A strategic, catchment wide approach should be delivered through partnerships between forestry and other relevant interests including those in the English part of the Tweed Catchment.

Delivery will ultimately be through the EU Water Framework Directive, as implemented under the Solway Tweed River Basin Management Plan.

Key Actions: 3d

(Policy Objective - To promote the role of trees woodlands and forests in the management, Protection and Enhancement of the Region's Water resources)

Key Actions:

PEW1	Ensure that woodland expansion and management does not jeopardise water quality or the inherent characteristics of water courses through adherence to FC Forests and Water Guidelines and the UK Forestry Standard.
PEW2	With partners, identify where woodland management and/or expansion could have a positive impact on water quality and flood plain management within potential and preferred locations.

THEME 4
THE ROLE OF TREES, WOODLANDS AND FORESTS IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SCOTTISH BORDERS

The key policy objectives relating to the role of trees, woodlands and forests in contributing to the quality of life in Scottish Borders are:

a. **To strengthen the connection between trees, woods and forests and the Scottish Borders tourism sector.**
b. **To improve opportunities for public access to woodlands for recreation, health and well-being.**

Woodlands make an important contribution to the scenic attractiveness of the Borders for both visitors and residents. They can also provide a valued resource for various forms of organised and informal recreation and therefore represent a considerable asset to the local tourist industry. This represents a significant 'non-timber' economic benefit.

The world-class 7stanes mountain biking routes at Glentress make it the most visited attraction in Scottish Borders, with an estimated 250,000 visits in 2003. This puts Forestry Commission Scotland forests in the Tweed Valley Forest Park (and at Newcastleton) at the forefront of woodland-based recreation and tourism in the South of Scotland.

The designated long distance walking routes in the Borders all have sections that pass through woodland. There is also considerable demand for access to native and riparian woodlands, which are both visually attractive and good for wildlife walks. The Scottish Borders Tourist Board also promotes the Borders as an area to appreciate the autumn colours. Visitor research shows that landscape and scenery are one of the key attractions of the area and that short to moderate length walks and enjoyment of the 'great outdoors' are one of the area's best selling points.

The structure of VisitScotland and the Area Tourist Board is changing but it is anticipated that there will still be a local Tourism Strategy and that this will continue to focus on attracting higher spending visitors throughout the year. Efforts should continue to develop woodlands as high quality environments for visitors with appropriate recreational facilities that are easily accessible. There is also a need to develop public interpretation to create a 'Sense of Place' and to encourage repeat visits and economic spend.

Key Actions: 4a

*(Policy Objective - To strengthen the connection between trees, **W**oods and forests and the Scottish Borders **T**ourism **S**ector)*

Key Actions:

WTS1	Work with public sector agencies and the private sector to consolidate the high reputation of Scottish Borders for its existing provision of woodland recreation by seeking opportunities to further develop use of woodlands as a setting for high quality tourism facilities.
WTS2	Work with the forestry sector and other partners to take a strategic approach to the location and clustering of future woodland-based tourism facilities, linking with the core paths network and nature-based tourism sites, and seek additional funding to support implementation.

Improving opportunities for public access to woodlands for recreation

Although informal access is available in many private woodlands in Scottish Borders, provision of recreation and other tourism activities has to date been less well developed in the private sector than by Forestry Commission Scotland. This is partly explained by the fragmented geographical spread of the woodlands and the diversity of ownership and management objectives. However there has also been resistance from some private owners to proactive provision of public access.

With the passing of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, a right of responsible access to most land, including access to woodlands, has now been created. There is now scope and motivation therefore to develop a wider range and network of recreational facilities across a broader range of private woodlands in Scottish Borders. This could be achieved, for example, by establishing links with similar facilities available in neighbouring Forestry Commission Scotland forests and/or with other recreation or tourism attractions nearby. The development of the Scottish Borders core paths network is a further opportunity for linking people with forestry facilities.

Strengthening the link between access to woodland and health and well-being

There is increasing recognition at the political level of the link between health, exercise and access to green space, including trees and woodland. Better efforts to understand these links are being developed. For example, woodland-based recreation can contribute to the health and well-being of local communities and visitors, by providing an attractive environment with unrestricted access for walks. (This includes dog walking which can cause problems on

farmland and in parks and recreation areas). Regular fresh air and exercise, taken in these areas, can provide relaxation, reduce stress and make an important, if largely un-quantified, contribution to public health.

Key Actions: 4b

*(Policy Objective - To improve opportunities for public access to woodlands for **R**ecreation, **H**ealth and **W**ell-being)*

Key Actions:

RHW1	Proactively increase provision of public access to woodlands for healthy exercise and other recreation, linking to the core paths network particularly in proximity to Scottish Borders towns and settlements.
RHW2	Secure recognition and promote understanding of the contribution of trees and woodland to the health and well-being of the Scottish Borders people.

THEME 5
CONNECTING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES WITH SCOTTISH BORDERS TREES, WOODLANDS AND FORESTS

The key policy objectives for connecting people and communities with trees, woodlands and forests are:

a. **To foster opportunities for local communities in Scottish Borders for stewardship of woodlands as social, cultural and economic assets.**
b. **To promote the use of woodlands as a resource for education and learning.**

Scottish Borders has been at the forefront of community participation in woodlands since 1987 with the establishment of one of the first community owned woodlands. Since then over 20 more community woodland initiatives have been started, many supported by Borders Forest Trust, a charitable trust set up in 1996 to promote the restoration of native woodlands and woodland culture.

The Scottish Forestry Strategy has been an important national driver for change. The role of community involvement is now widely recognised and Forestry Commission Scotland encourages local people to become more closely involved in forestry decisions that might affect their community, mainly through the consultation process and the development of community participation. Nationally the community woodland movement has grown to well over 100 groups managing thousands of hectares. This has recently seen the development of a national support organisation, the Community Woodland Association, which is recognised by national policy makers and supported by FCS, SNH and the CLU.

Because of their extent and landscape value, trees, woodlands and forests directly and indirectly influence the lives of both the rural and more urban-based populations of Scottish Borders. Whilst some of the larger traditional estates have developed strong links with their local communities, many other private owners have been less involved, except when required as part of Forest Plans or other forestry schemes. Nonetheless a range of opportunities now exist for further community involvement depending on the needs, aspirations and motivations of different communities, from consultation over future plans through management agreements to outright community ownership. To be effective, positive and sustainable community involvement requires strong motivation and commitment from both the forest owner and the community itself (if they are different) and also that there is discernible benefit and an agreed means of sustainable management. It may be that the areas identified as preferred for urban fringe woodland

could form the basis for the future community woodland initiatives.

However, this will only be the case if the local community is actively involved in the design and management. There may equally be enthusiasm for community woodland projects to be located in the more remote areas of Scottish Borders where these are driven by specific environmental or other native woodland restoration objectives or by the potential for local economic development.

The wealth of experience that has been acquired in Scottish Borders in the area of community based woodland projects must be built on to ensure that it remains a driving force in the community woodland movement.

Key Actions: 5a

*(Policy Objective - To foster **O**pportunities for **L**ocal **C**ommunities in Scottish Borders for stewardship of woodlands as social, cultural and economic assets)*

Key Actions:

OLC1	Seek additional funding to encourage the planting of new woodlands to provide community benefits and to enhance the environment around existing and planned housing and commercial developments.
OLC2	Promote planning and consultation mechanisms that encourage local community involvement in the stewardship of woodland resource through ownership or management partnerships with woodland owners.

There are many opportunities to introduce children to trees, woodlands and forests. This provides the double benefit of supporting environmental studies and fostering a better understanding of woodlands and woodland culture. There are woodland education initiatives that can take place in schools or on excursions where woodlands can become very effective 'outdoor classrooms'.

Key Actions: 5b

*(Policy Objective - To promote opportunities to use woodlands as a **R**esource for **E**ducation and **L**earning)*

Key Actions:

REL1	Strengthen links with schools and develop the use of woodlands, woodfuel and tree planting as educational resources.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND EXPANSION ARISING FROM THE STRATEGIC THEMES

In response to the key actions identified, a series of parameters can be defined to guide opportunities for woodland expansion.

Prioritising the Opportunities for Woodland Expansion

In light of its previous landscape history, most land within Scottish Borders has the potential to support woodland cover of some kind. Planting of new woodland is therefore a potential option, virtually throughout. The choice of land use for any area is dependent upon the wide range of opportunities and constraints that affect each individual site. The decision by owners and managers to maintain or expand tree cover and the scale, composition and purpose of that tree cover are dependent upon the interaction of these land based factors and each owner's individual objectives.

One of the principal purposes of this strategy is to identify those areas where woodland expansion could provide most benefit as defined by the five preceding themes. Computer based Geographical Information Systems (GIS) allow spatial information to be mapped in layers to produce new maps that identify specified opportunities and constraints. This means that many of the broad factors that guide land use choice can be combined to provide factually based indicative maps than can guide future decisions.

It is useful to identify the broad categories of new woodland and forest that may occur within Scottish Borders because this enables more specific opportunities and constraints to be identified for each category. This, in turn, allows more directed indicative maps to be prepared. It also guides the selection of suitable woodland cover for a given area, although it must be emphasised that this guidance is only indicative and does not allow for detailed site considerations. To help provide this strategic and spatial guidance, the following four categories of woodland have therefore been defined:

Categories of Woodland for New Planting - See also, the Maps in Appendices

◆ **Lowland / Upland Fringe Woodlands**
These will be well-designed, small and medium sized, multi-purpose woodlands, often with a high proportion of broadleaved trees. They will preferably be located within the existing matrix of woodland and farmland that typifies the more settled, intensively cultivated areas of Scottish Borders which have a relatively 'small scale' lowland, river valley and upland fringe landscape character, as defined by the Region's Landscape Character Assessment*. In these areas 'brown earth' soils will often predominate and other site factors will generally provide greater flexibility in terms of woodland diversity, choice of species and silvicultural system, often with the potential to grow higher quality timber than in the uplands. New woodland is likely to be less extensive (of the order of 100 ha or less) and whilst timber production may be a management objective, other objectives such as recreation, tourism, sporting, shelter and enhancement for biodiversity are also likely to be important.

◆ **Upland / Upland Fringe Forests & Woodlands**
These will be well-designed, medium and large sized, multi-purpose forests and woodlands, often with a higher proportion of conifers. They will preferably be located within the larger scale upland and upland fringe landscapes of Scottish Borders as defined by the Region's Landscape

* Appendix 1a - Map 4

Character Assessment. Soil and other site factors generally offer less flexibility in terms of species choice, productive potential and choice of silvicultural systems than in the lowlands. Timber production will often be a primary management objective and, provided that planting proposals are complementary to landform, woodland expansion in the uplands and upland fringes may include larger areas appropriate to the larger scale landscape. Sites should be located within economic distance of the timber transport 'Preferred routes' network. There is an expectation that timber production will be supplemented by secondary objectives such as provision of shelter, landscape and biodiversity enhancement.

◆ Native / Riparian Woodlands
These will be well-designed woodlands of predominantly native character that will deliver one or more objectives of Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Increase and inter-connection of forest habitat is a key factor for improvement of woodland biodiversity. New riparian woodlands will mostly, but not exclusively, be targeted at locations that are within defined buffer zones of rivers and streams (where many existing woodland fragments occur) and that connect with existing Forest Habitat Network Woodlands (i.e. Ancient Semi-Natural woodland and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites). Other native woodlands will preferentially, but not exclusively, be targeted in locations that link with existing Forest Habitat Network Woodlands and those that link adjoining water catchments.

◆ Urban Fringe / Community Woodlands
These will be well-designed, generally small scale, woodlands intended to provide for public recreation. They will normally be located in proximity to Scottish Borders towns and villages and proposed new residential and commercial developments. They may have a variety of species compositions and characteristics and may have multiple management objectives but public access and visual and structural diversity will normally be a priority.

All four of the above categories of woodland are able to deliver the objectives of the LBAP. The native/riparian category would refer to the Native Woodland HAP.

To assist the targeting of future woodland expansion and prioritisation of existing and future funding support, Maps 5 - 8 provide an indication of where opportunities for new planting under each of the above woodland categories are likely to be. These are classified as 'Preferred', 'Potential' or 'Sensitive' which are defined as follows:

PREFERRED
Locations where encouragement for new planting of an appropriate scale, composition and purpose that will help deliver the SBWS's objectives for woodland expansion, without conflicting with any local sensitivities, will be given highest strategic priority.

POTENTIAL
Other areas where new planting proposals, of an appropriate scale, composition and purpose, that will help deliver the SBWS's objectives for woodland expansion, will be supported.

SENSITIVE
Areas where new planting may be supported but where the design of the proposals is likely to need to accommodate one or a combination of specific issues or site sensitivities.

Guidance on the chosen selection criteria is given at Appendix I.

The areas shown in the Maps, in the Appendices II to V, indicate where preferred, potential and sensitive areas are indicated using the specific GIS parameters that apply to each of the four key woodland categories.

It is recognised, however, that the motivation for woodland expansion must be 'opportunistic' in response to individual owners' objectives. Specific site conditions may also vary from these regional scale maps which are designed to provide general indications rather than prescriptive direction.

PART 5
STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

ACTIONS AND MILESTONES

Implementing the Strategy and achieving its vision is as important as the Strategy itself. This is not something that can be achieved by Scottish Borders Council alone but - aligned with the New Ways approach - will require involvement, commitment, collective expertise and resources from all the stakeholders from across the forestry-related sectors. This part of the SBWS looks forward to the implementation, on-going monitoring and review of the Strategy, setting out a framework programme for integrated action and participation. It also includes performance indicators that partners can individually and collectively take forward, and against which they can allocate appropriate resources and gauge progress.

Each of the strategic themes and associated policy objectives in Part 4 of the SBWS set the direction for a programme of action that will require a separate range of outputs and require indicator targets that can be described and measured.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Effort should be concentrated on delivery of the strategy rather than on needlessly repeating the process of strategy development. However, mechanisms will be required both to monitor progress of delivery of the strategy and to review and update the strategy itself so that it remains relevant to, and reflects the expectations of, Scottish Borders Council, the forestry sector and the wider public. It is anticipated that the South Scotland Regional Forestry Forum will also have a key role in promoting the development and implementation of the SBWS.

The table below sets out the possible lead partners and preliminary draft indicators for taking forward the various key action programmes.

Strategic Theme 1
Contributing to the sustainable development of the Scottish Borders economy

Policy Objectives	Key Actions	Lead Partners	Possible Indicators
To promote and encourage development of the Scottish Borders wood supply chain, product development and collaborative marketing.	WSC1, WSC2, WSC3	FTA, SEB/ SFIC, SBC	Volume of timber harvested and processed in Scottish Borders. SBC Procurement Policy. Number of SMEs assisted.
To foster the development of wood-based renewable energy.	WRE1, WRE2	SBC, SEB/ SFIC, FCS, BFT	Number of wood based energy projects implemented.
To continue to address issues associated with the regional timber transport infrastructure.	RTT1, RTT2, RTT3, RTT4, RTT5	SBC, FCS, FTA, FCA	
To help support a strong forestry sector network.	FSN1, FSN2, FSN3	SEB/ SFIC, FCS, FTA, FCA	Representation of SBC and other lead partners on South Scotland Regional Forestry Forum & South Scotland Forest Industries Cluster.

Strategic Theme 2
Expanding & diversifying the Scottish Borders woodland resource

Policy Objectives	Key Actions	Lead Partners	Possible Indicators
To encourage the expansion of high quality woodland cover of appropriate scale, character and purpose throughout Scottish Borders to achieve the optimum balance of land uses.	EWC1, EWC2, EWC3	FCS, SBC, SNH, BFT	Total area of woodland in approved planting schemes.
To deliver where possible the targets set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy.	SFS1	FCS, SBC, SNH, BFT	Areas of woodland land cover by 2050.
To promote best practice in sustainable woodland management that will provide the region with a high quality, diverse and multi-benefit resource.	PBP1, PBP2, PBP3, PBP4, PBP5, PBP6	FCS, SBC, SNH, DCS	Uptake of FTA / Leader + certification scheme. Area of woodland certified. Number of forest plans approved.
To support opportunities for more integration of farming with forestry where this makes a positive contribution to land-use diversification and rural development.	EWC2	FCS, SEERAD, SBC	Number of approved SFGS Farmland Premium applications.

Strategic Theme 3
Protecting and enhancing the Scottish Borders landscape, biodiversity & cultural heritage

Policy Objectives	Key Actions	Lead Partners	Possible Indicators
To promote the role of trees, woodlands and forests in protecting and enhancing the Region's natural and designed landscapes.	NDL1, NDL2, NDL3, NDL4, NDL5, NDL6	SBC, SNH, FCS, SEERAD	Number of approved SFGS applications or other management schemes.
To promote the role of trees, woodlands and forests in protecting and enhancing the Region's archaeological and other cultural heritage legacy.	ACH1, ACH2	SBC, SUP	Number of approved SFGS applications or other management schemes with archaeological component.
To protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the Scottish Borders woodland resource.	PEB1, PEB2, PEB3, PEB4, PEB5, PEB6, PEB7, PEB8	SBC, FCS, SNH, BFT, SUP, Tweed Forum	Area of native woodland meeting LBAP objectives. Area of new native woodland.
To promote the role of trees, woodlands and forests in the management, protection and enhancement of the Region's water resources.	PEW1, PEW2	Tweed Foundation, SEPA, SNH, Tweed Forum	Number of approved SFGS applications or other management schemes with water protection component.

Strategic Theme 4
The role of trees, woodlands and forests in contributing to the quality of life in Scottish Borders

Policy Objectives	Key Actions	Lead Partners	Possible Indicators
To strengthen the connection between trees, woods and forests and the Scottish Borders tourism sector.	WTS1, WTS2	SBC, FCS, SEB/ SFIC, FTA	Number of new woodland based tourism schemes.
To improve opportunities for public access to woodlands for recreation, health and well-being.	RHW1, RHW2	SBC, FCS, FTA	Number of users of Scottish Borders woodlands.

Strategic Theme 5
Connecting Scottish Borders trees, woodlands and forest with people and communities

Policy Objectives	Key Actions	Lead Partners	Possible Indicators
To foster opportunities for local communities in Scottish Borders for stewardship of woodlands as social, cultural and economic assets.	OLC1, OLC2	SBC, BFT, FCS	Number of communities involved in woodland management or ownership. Area of woodland under community management.
To promote opportunities to use woodlands as a resource for education and learning.	REL1	SBC, FCS / FEI, BFT	Number of schools participating in FEI/ BFT/Forest School activities or initiatives.

APPENDIX I - TECHNICAL SUPPLEMENT - GIS PARAMETERS USED TO DERIVE THE SBWS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND EXPANSION MAPS

This supplement sets out the standard or 'GIS rules' applied to arrive at the spatial information shown in map form in the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy (SBWS). The rules were developed in consultation with stakeholders, tested at a consultation workshop and validated during the consultation process.

The overarching philosophy of the SBWS is that new planting should be looked on favourably everywhere in the Borders Region, but subject to appropriate scale, type, objectives and overriding constraints.

The development brief for the review of the Scottish Borders Indicative Forest Strategy and development of the SBWS was based on presenting information for new planting based on four woodland categories. These categories, Upland/Upland Fringe, Lowland/Upland Fringe, Native/Riparian, and Urban Fringe/Community, have been used as the 'core' maps.

In keeping with the guidance offered in Scottish Executive Development Department circular no. 9/1999 each core map identifies Sensitive, Potential and Preferred areas.
In the SBWS the categories 'Preferred', 'Potential' and 'Sensitive', are defined as follows:

Preferred

Locations where encouragement for new planting of an appropriate scale, composition and purpose that will help deliver the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy's objectives for woodland expansion, without conflicting with any local sensitivities, will be given highest strategic priority.

See maps for criteria for each category:

- **Map 5 (Appendix II)**
  Lowland/Upland Fringe Woodlands
- **Map 6 (Appendix III)**
  Upland/Upland Fringe Forests and Woodlands
- **Map 7 (Appendix IV)**
  Native and Riparian Woodlands
- **Map 8 (Appendix V)**
  Urban Fringe/Community Woodlands

Potential

Other areas where new planting proposals of an appropriate scale, composition and purpose that will help deliver the strategy's objectives for woodland expansion will be supported.

Sensitive

Areas where new planting may be supported but where the design of the proposals is likely to need to accommodate one or a combination of specific issues or site sensitivities. The sensitivities affecting each of the SBWS woodland categories are used as GIS 'rules' governing the outputs for the 4 core maps.

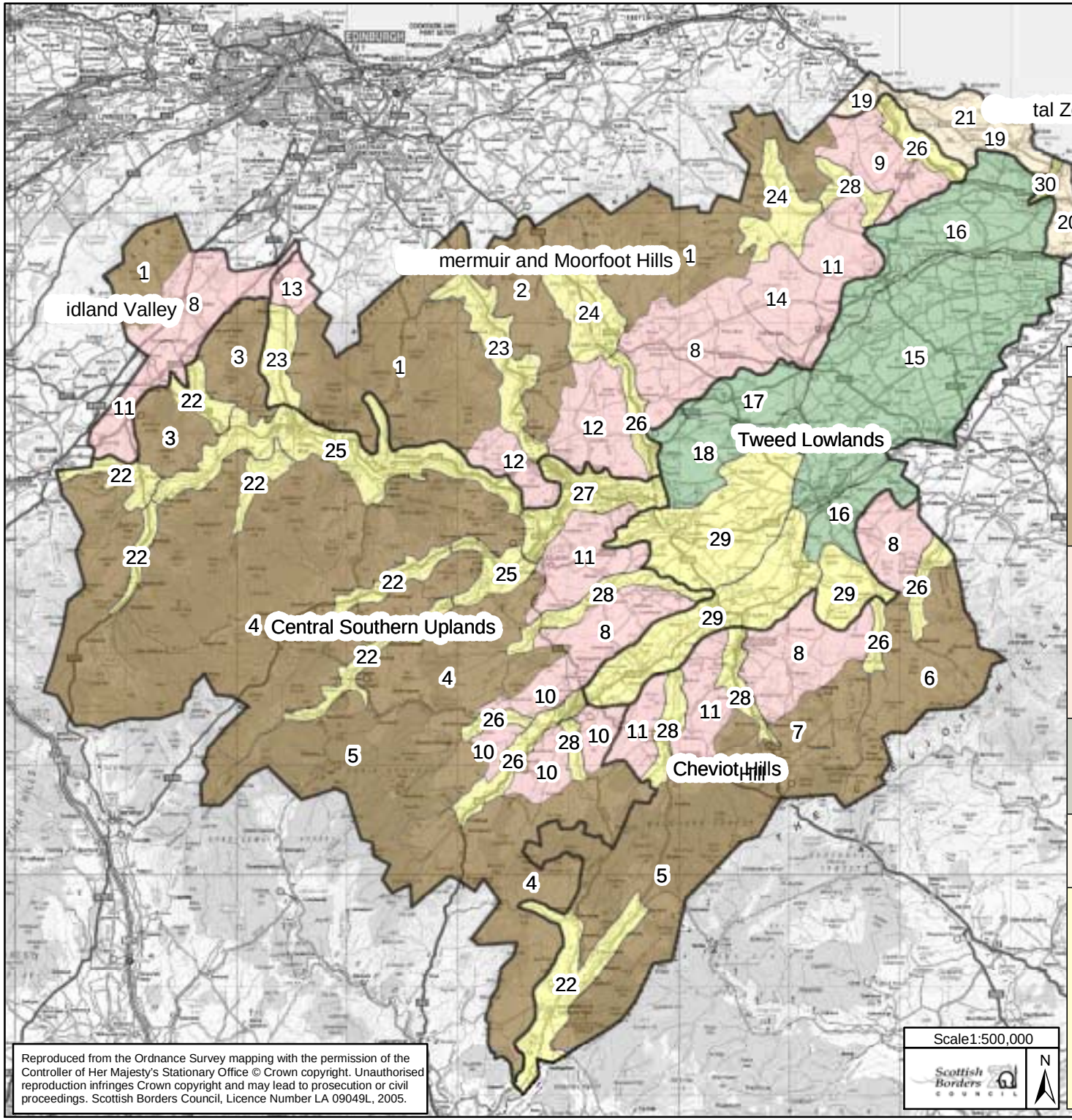
The sensitivities used are as follows:

- Scheduled Ancient Monument - SAM
- Area of Great Landscape Value - AGLV
- Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes - HGDL
- National Scenic Area - NSA
- Designated Wildlife Sites - DWS (includes Sites of Special Scientific Interest - SSSI, Special Areas of Conservation - SAC, Special Protection Areas - SPA, National Nature Reserve - NNR, and RAMSAR sites).

The SBWS categories and the sensitivity are combined as follows:

SBWS Woodland Category	Sensitivity				
	SAM	AGLV	HGDL	NSA	DWS
Upland/Upland Fringe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lowland/Upland Fringe	✓	×	×	×	✓
Native/Riparian	✓	×	×	×	✓
Urban Fringe/Community	✓	×	×	×	✓

APPENDIX Ia - MAP 4
LANDSCAPE CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY FOR THE



LANDSCAPE TYPES	
UPLAND TYPES	1. DISSECTED PLATEAU MOORLAND
	2. PLATEAU GRASSLAND
	3. PLATEAU OUTLIERS
	4. SOUTHERN UPLANDS TYPE WITH SCATTERED FOREST
	5. SOUTHERN UPLANDS TYPE FOREST COVERED
	6. CHEVIOT HILLS TYPE
	7. CHEVIOT FOOTHILLS TYPE
UPLAND FRINGE TYPES	8. ROLLING FARMLAND
	9. PLATFORM FARMLAND
	10. GRASSLAND WITH ROCK OUTCROPS
	11. GRASSLAND WITH HILLS
	12. UNDULATING GRASSLAND
	13. POOR ROUGH GRASSLAND
	14. MOORLAND
LOWLAND TYPES	15. LOWLAND WITH DRUMLINS
	16. ROLLING LOWLAND MARGIN
	17. LOWLAND MARGIN PLATFORM
	18. LOWLAND MARGIN WITH HILLS
COASTAL TYPES	19. COASTAL FARMLAND
	20. COASTAL PASTURE
	21. COASTAL MOORLAND
RIVER VALLEY TYPES	22. UPLAND VALLEY WITH PASTORAL FLOOR
	23. PASTORAL UPLAND VALLEY
	24. UPLAND VALLEY WITH FARMLAND
	25. UPLAND VALLEY WITH WOODLAND
	26. PASTORAL UPLAND FRINGE VALLEY
	27. UPLAND FRINGE VALLEY WITH SETTLEMENTS
	28. WOODED UPLAND FRINGE VALLEY
	29. LOWLAND VALLEY WITH FARMLAND
	30. COASTAL VALLEY

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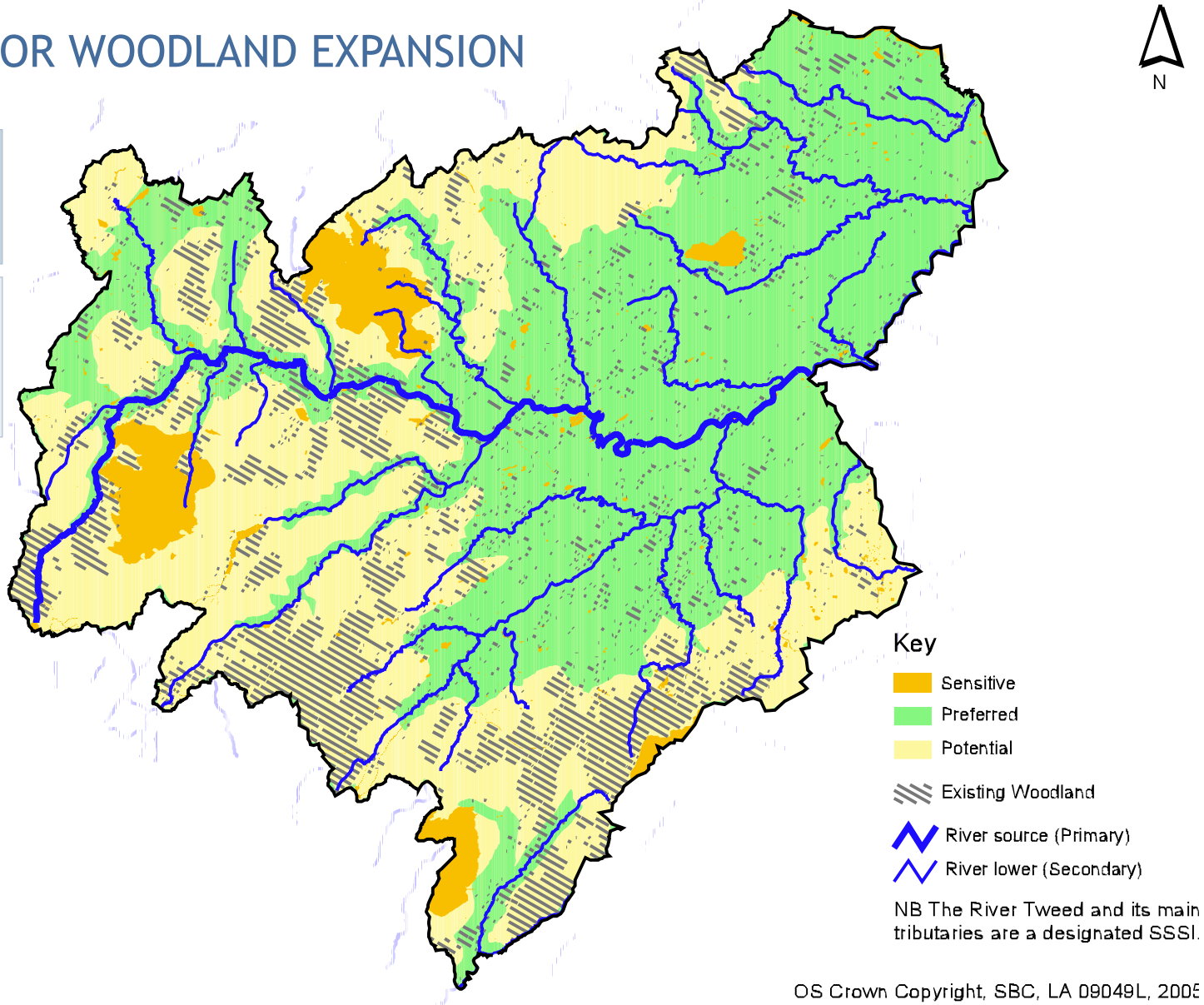
APPENDIX II
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND EXPANSION

MAP 5
LOWLAND / UPLAND FRINGE WOODLANDS

EXPLANATORY NOTE:
The Preferred, Potential and Sensitive categories have been created on this Map using the following GIS parameters:

Preferred - includes all land classified by the Borders Landscape Assessment as Lowland, River Valley, Coastal and Upland Fringe Landscape Types
Potential - includes all other land
Sensitive - includes Designated Wildlife Sites, SAM

** Appropriate native woodland planting may also be preferred or potential within SSSIs and SACs depending on the nature of the sensitivity.*



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APPENDIX IIIa (Updates Appendix III of SBWS 2005)
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND EXPANSION

MAP 6
UPLAND / UPLAND FRINGE FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

EXPLANATORY NOTE:
The categories have been created on this map using the following GIS parameters:

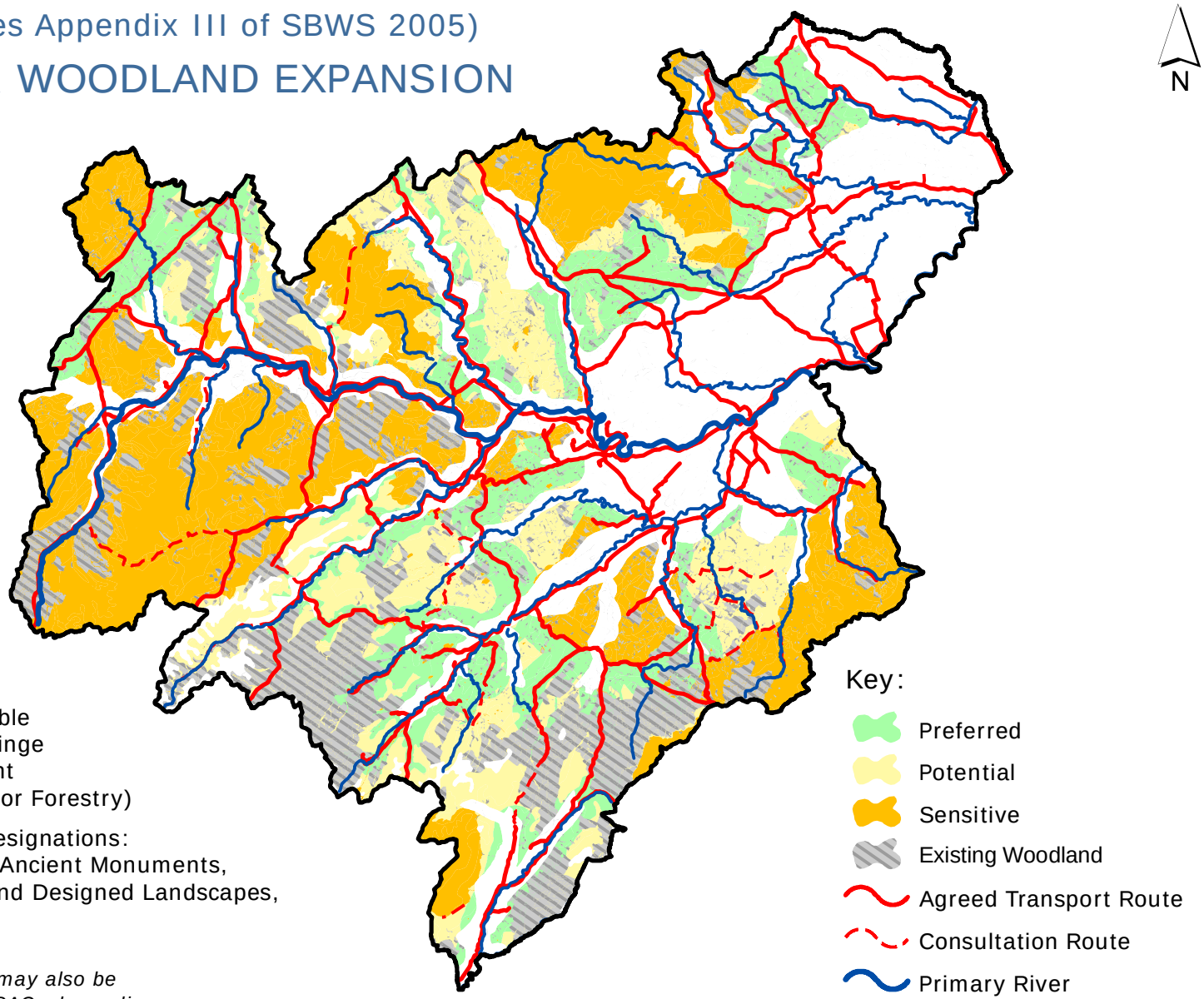
Preferred - includes all land classified Upland and Upland Fringe in the Borders Landscape Assessment that is also classified as F5 or better in Land Capability for Forestry classification and that lies within 2km of an agreed timber transport route.

Potential - includes all other plantable land classified Upland and Upland Fringe in the Borders Landscape Assessment (i.e. F6 or better in Land Capability for Forestry)

Sensitive - includes the following designations: Designated wildlife sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Special Landscape Areas, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, National Scenic Areas

** Appropriate native woodland planting may also be preferred or potential within SSSIs and SACs depending on the nature of the sensitivity.*

** NB: The River Tweed and its main tributaries are a designated SSSI.*



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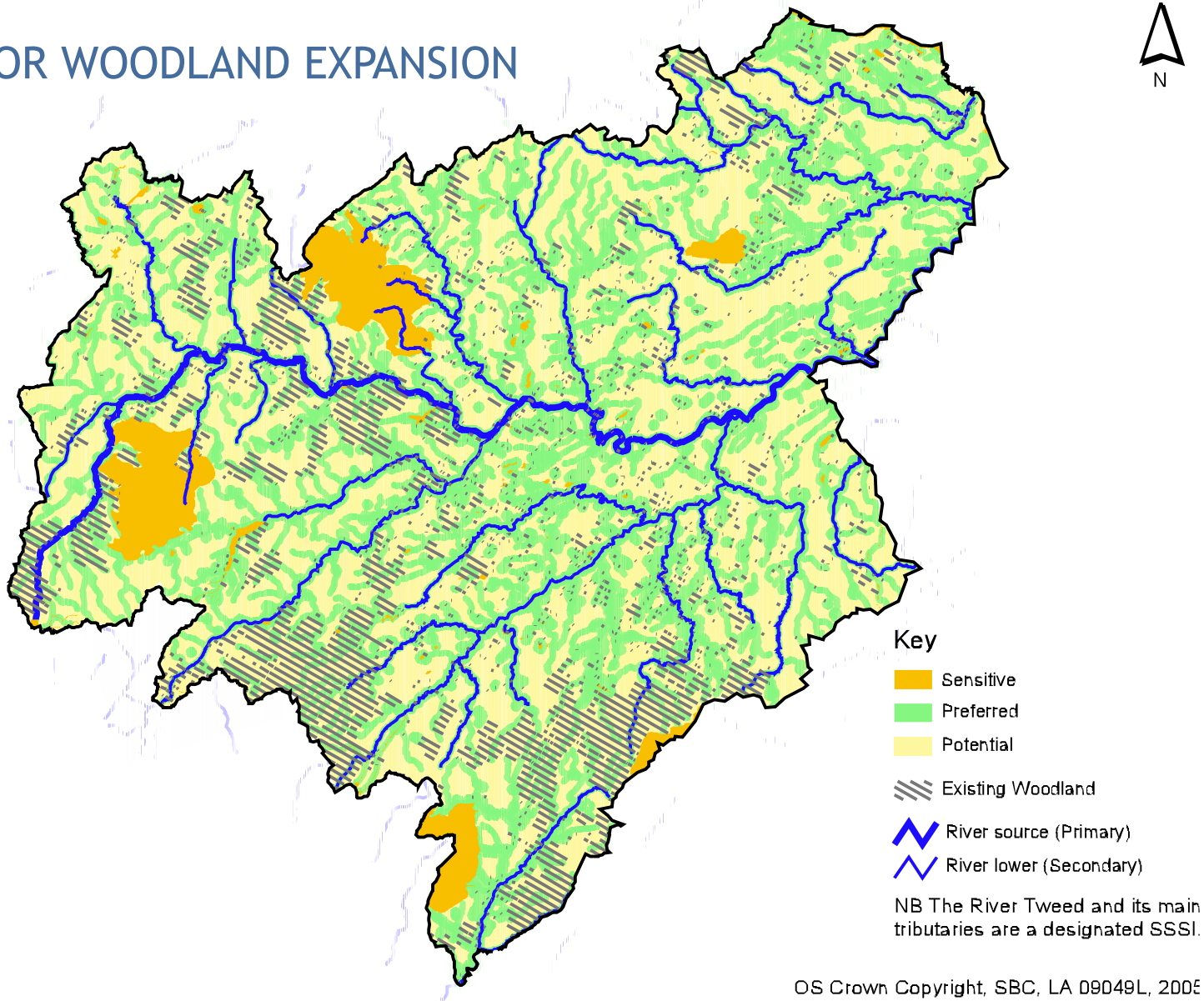
APPENDIX IV
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND EXPANSION

MAP 7
NATIVE AND RIPARIAN WOODLANDS

EXPLANATORY NOTE:
The Preferred, Potential and Sensitive categories have been created on this Map using the following GIS parameters:

Preferred - includes all land within a 500m buffer zone around all major rivers and main tributaries and existing Forest Habitat Network woodland, and all land within 300m of minor watercourse
Potential - includes all other land not subject to sensitivities
Sensitive - includes all Designated Wildlife Sites (includes the River Tweed) * & SAM

** Appropriate native woodland planting may also be preferred or potential within SSSIs and SACs depending on the nature of the sensitivity.*



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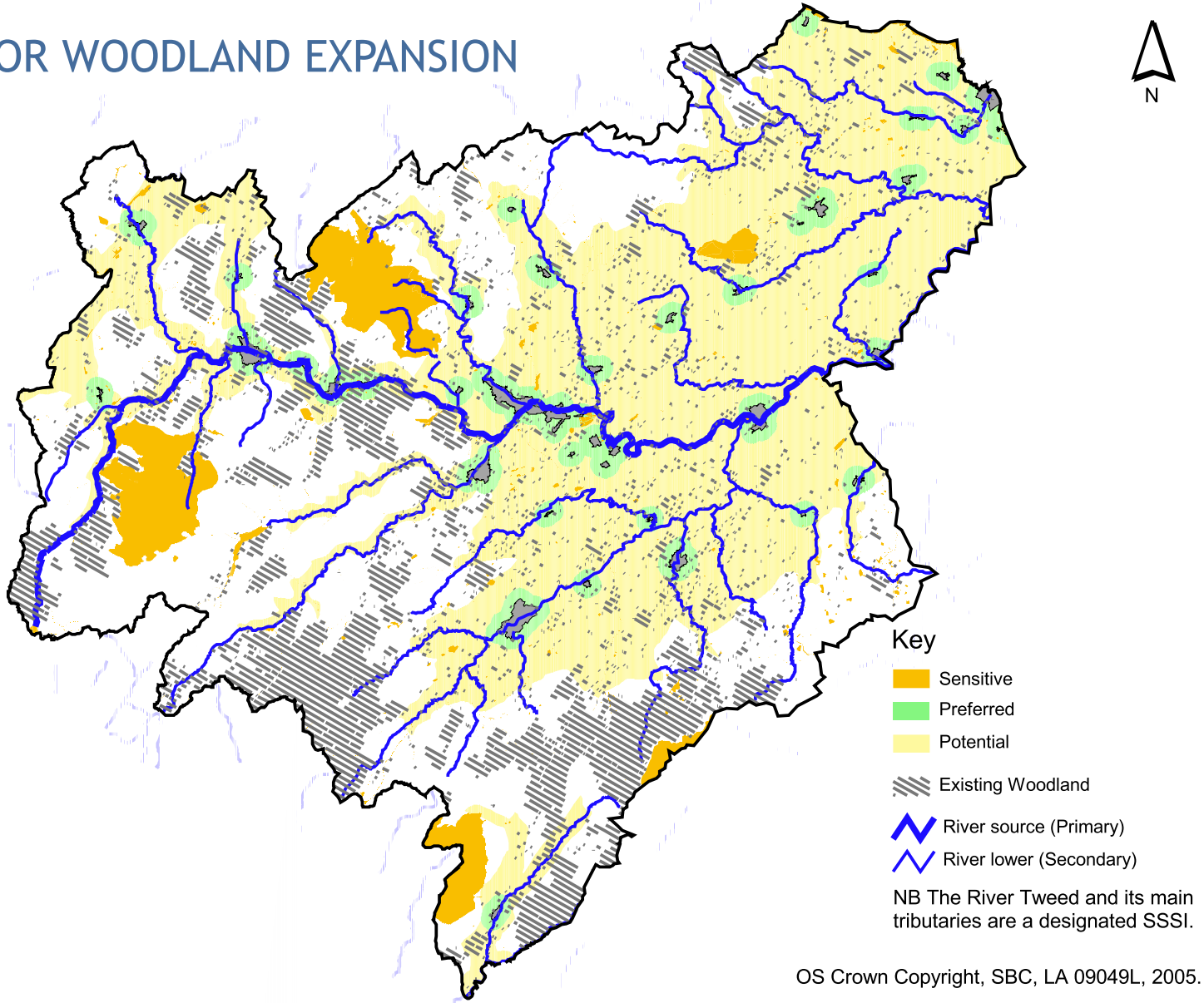
APPENDIX V
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND EXPANSION

MAP 8
URBAN FRINGE / COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

EXPLANATORY NOTE:
The Preferred, Potential and Sensitive categories have been created on this Map using the following GIS parameters:

Preferred - includes all land within a 1 km buffer zone around the boundary of all settlements with a population of > 200 (as defined by the Local Plan)
Potential - includes all land classified by the Borders Landscape Assessment as Lowland, River Valley, Coastal and Upland Fringe Landscape Types (i.e. where smaller settlements occur)
Sensitive - includes all Designated Wildlife Sites and SAM

** Appropriate native woodland planting may also be preferred or potential within SSSIs and SACs depending on the nature of the sensitivity.*



NB The River Tweed and its main tributaries are a designated SSSI.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AGLV	Area of Great Landscape Value
BFT	Borders Forest Trust
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy (European Union)
CLU	Community Land Unit (Highlands and Islands Enterprise)
DCS	Deer Commission for Scotland
DWS	Designated Wildlife Site
EU	European Union
FCA	Forestry Contracting Association
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
FEI	Forest Education Initiative
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FTA	Forest and Timber Association
FWPS	Farm Woodland Premium Scheme
GIS	Geographical Information System
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
HGDL	Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes
IFS	Indicative Forestry Strategy
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NSA	National Scenic Area
PAWS	Planted Ancient Woodland Sites
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RAC	Regional Advisory Committee (Forestry Commission)
RDR	Rural Development Regulation (European Union)
RSS	Rural Stewardship Scheme
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SBC	Scottish Borders Council
SBWS	Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy
SEB	Scottish Enterprise Borders
SEERAD	Scottish Executive Environment Rural Affairs Department
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SFGS	Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (Forestry Commission)
SFIC	Scottish Forest Industries Cluster
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SUP	Southern Uplands Partnership
TDC	Top Diameter Class
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan
UKWAS	United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme
WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme (Forestry Commission)

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CONTACT

Further copies of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy are available from:

Planning and Economic Development
Scottish Borders Council
Newtown St Boswells
Melrose
Scottish Borders
TD6 0SA

Tel: 01835 825060
Fax: 01835 825158

e-mail: ped@scotborders.gov.uk
www.scotborders.gov.uk

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SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

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