

Broadleaved and Mixed Woodland



Current action

National forestry policy includes a presumption against clearance of any woodland for conversion to other land uses, and in particular seeks to maintain the special interest of ancient, semi-natural woodland. Felling licences from the Forestry Commission (FC) are normally required if the woods are not managed under plans approved by them.

Within the City woodlands are protected by a range of policies and designations. Several woodlands occur within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) although only the Cart & Kitch Valley is designated for its woodland cover. Additionally semi-natural woods and trees receive additional protection through policies and strategies within City Council development plans as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Important Wildlife Corridors or through Tree Preservation Orders (T.P.O.).

There is a large amount of woodland management literature produced by the Forestry Commission, and other agencies such as Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), providing advice and guidance

All woodlands are expected to be managed according to the UK Forestry Standard. The FC has produced Forestry Practice Guides 1-9 relating to the management of semi-natural woodlands. These have been prepared in response to the Government's Broadleaves Policy 1985, which aims to maintain and increase broadleaved woodland by encouraging good management.

Significant inventories of woodlands include the Inventory of Ancient, Long-established and Semi-natural Woodland for Scotland and the Forestry Commission's National Inventory of Woodland and Trees. The latter, initiated in 1995, provides information on the extent, distribution and composition of woodland in the whole of GB.

Guidance on ways of creating new native woodland is available in the Forestry Commission's Bulletin 112 and in locations when recommended by SNH.

SEPA gathers relevant water quality information through surveys and monitoring of rivers running through some woodlands.

Links with other Habitat & Species Action Plans

This 'woodland' plan complements other habitat plans proposed for the City and adjoining local authorities. Woodlands can be important components of habitat mosaics at a number of sites, including urban ones, and are often very important elements along water course corridors. They also help provide the necessary conditions for a number of key, declining species to stabilise and/or increase their population, both within and outwith the city. The Glasgow area is viewed as an important strategic location, providing a link between the nationally important forest areas of Loch Lomond and the Clyde Valley Woods.

Current factors causing loss or decline

Woodlands have suffered from a number of activities in the past and many, if not all are still relevant today. The main factors affecting woodlands are considered to be as follows:

- Land use pressures such as transport, housing, industrial and business developments,
- Replacement of native stands by non-native trees
- Invasion by non-native species such as Rhododendron, Sycamore and Beech
- Lack of woodland management leading to loss, invasion or dereliction
- Fragmentation of woodland resources leading to a less robust ecosystem
- People pressure e.g. recreational use, vandalism
- Dutch Elm disease
- Over grazing by stock on farm woodlands
- Air pollution and acid deposition (also affecting lichens and fungi)

Proposed Action with Lead Authorities

Action	Lead	Delivery	Objective
Policy and Legislation			
Ensure woodlands are protected from harmful development pressures through the planning system.	FC	FC, GCC-DRS, SNH	1
Develop forestry and landscape strategies to promote woodland expansion and restoration.	FC	FC, GCC-DRS, GCC-LS(CG)SNH	1, 3, 5
Develop criteria to help determine the appropriate balance of different management regimes and suitable areas for woodland expansion and restoration.	FC	FC, GCC-LS,SNH	3, 4
Continue to restore sites arising from the Derelict and Vacant Land Study recognising the appropriate woodland types and ensuring integration with existing ecological features.	FC	FC, GCC-DRS, SNH	3, 5
Site Safeguard and Management			
Survey main ancient and semi-natural woodlands to assess key sites for action.	FC	GCC-LS(CG), SNH, SWT	2
Aim to plant and encourage natural regeneration of trees of local provenance by assisting the supply of local provenance seed and planting stock.	FC	GCC-LS, SWT, TWISE	3

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Objectives and targets

The main objectives are broad and link with those recommended at national level.

Objective 1: To maintain the current extent of ancient semi-natural woodland.
Target 1: Ensure no further loss in extent and quality.

Objective 2: Identify and assess woodland areas of important nature conservation value.
Target 2: Survey main ancient and semi-natural sites to establish size and condition.

Objective 3: To increase the total extent of priority woodland habitat within the City.
Target 3: Encourage natural regeneration, new natural colonisation and native tree planting at new sites.

Objective 4: To ensure the ecological value of broadleaved and mixed woodland is improved.
Target 4: Encouraging sympathetic site specific management regimes.

Objective 5: To promote woodlands for socio-economic and public amenity benefits.
Target 5: Increase visitor numbers to, and promote value and appreciation of, local woodlands.

LOCAL HABITAT ACTION PLAN

Current status

Glasgow's **Broadleaved and Mixed woodland** areas make an important contribution to the landscape and amenity of the city. The scope of this plan covers a number of woodland types, including all broad-leaved or mixed broad-leaved and coniferous woodlands, patches of scrub greater than 0.25ha and related features such as glades and rides. It excludes commercial, coniferous plantations and wet woodlands (the latter the subject of a separate plan). Hedgerows will be covered in separate plan at a future date.

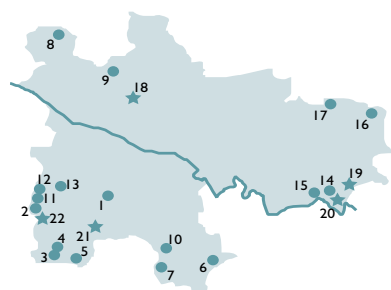
The City of Glasgow covers an area of 17,730ha with approximately 430ha of this total being woodland cover. 368ha of woodland was identified within the Ancient, Semi-Natural and Long Established Woodlands Inventory of 1991, with approximately 53% of these woods being Long Established Woods of Plantation Origin. Sites surveyed are those greater than 2ha, consequently a number of smaller, often semi-natural relics, will have been missed. In general, woodland within Glasgow is distributed among a large number of small sites and is often linear in shape.

A number of woodland types are present in Glasgow, ranging from conifer plantations to ancient and semi-natural woodland of high conservation value. The more natural woodlands have survived on steeper ground where development has proved too costly or difficult, such as the Cathkin Braes, Garscadden Wood and along the main watercourses.

Much of the woodland in Glasgow has had periods of intensive management and periods of neglect. A lot of the woodland was managed extensively by the owners of large estates who provided for some level of access to the woodland and managed them for a combination of amenity (private and public) and timber production. As the private estates were gradually broken up and housing development took up much of the land, the woodlands were preserved as a backdrop to housing or to provide seclusion in the more exclusive developments. Some

woodland passed from private ownership into the hands of Glasgow Corporation or other public bodies such as hospital boards. Many of the large parks such as the Linn Park, Bellahouston Park and Dawsholm Park originated in this way. A number of these woodlands form part of a designed landscape and have important cultural significance.

Main Locations of Broad-leaved and Mixed Woodland in Glasgow



1. Pollok Country Park (71.0ha)
2. Hurllehill (6.0ha)
3. Waulkmill Glen (3.0ha)
4. Darnley Mill Country Park (4.5ha)
5. Patterton Wood (3.0ha)
6. Cathkin Braes and Big Wood (30.0ha)
7. Cart & Kittoch Valley SSSI (23.0ha)
8. Garscadden Wood (11.6ha)
9. Dawsholm Park (13.0)
10. Linn Park (22.2ha)
11. Bull Wood Plantation (6.6ha)
12. Blacksey Plantation (3.5ha)
13. Crookston Plantation (6.5ha)
14. Daldowie Woodland (1.7ha)
15. Kenmuir Woodland (1.5ha)
16. Gartloch Woodlands (13.0ha)
17. Garnkirk Moss Plantations (8.0ha)
18. River Kelvin approx. (14.0ha)
19. North Calder approx. (12.0ha)
20. River Clyde, Daldowie approx. (3.0ha)
21. White Cart North approx. (3.5ha)
22. Levern Water approx. (3.5ha)

Total 264.1ha

Glasgow Total Woodland Area by Type

Semi-natural Woods (157.0ha)
Mixed/Policy Plantations (194.0ha)
Plantations of Introduced Broad-leaves (10.0ha)
Plantations of Introduced Conifers (7.0ha)
Commercial Conifer Plantation (0.0ha)

Total 368.0ha

Definitions

Ancient woods: those occupying sites which have been wooded continuously since the time when the first reliable maps were made (c. 1750 in Scotland).

Semi-natural woods: are composed predominantly of native trees and shrub species, which have not been planted. Many woods are semi-natural even though they contain a few introduced trees, for the latter do not change the character of the wood.

Long-established woodland of semi-natural origin: these are woods that have apparently arisen between 1750 and 1860 and have a proven continuity of woodland cover for at least 140 years.

Long-established woodland of plantation origin: these are sites which appear to be plantation woodland in c.1860 but not shown as woodland at all in 1750. These woods have a proven continuity as woodland for at least 140 years and may have considerable conservation interest.

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Proposed Action with Lead Authorities

Action	Lead	Delivery	Objective
Site Safeguard and Management			
Work with private and public landowners to further maintain and enhance riparian woodlands and those associated with water (e.g. canals).	FC	BW, FC, FWAG, GCC-LS, GfC, SNH, SWT, TWISE	3, 4, 5
Identify owners and promote long term management plans at all key sites, aimed at increasing the nature conservation interest of woodland and recognising interaction with related habitats.	FC	FC, FWAG, GCC-LS, SNH, SWT, TWISE	3, 4, 5
Restore priority native woodland at plantations on ancient woodland sites. Aim for 15ha by 2010.	FC	FC, GCC-LS, GfC, SNH, SWT	3, 4
Encourage woodland expansion by natural colonisation and planting of site-native and local genetic provenance. Aim for 10ha by 2006.	FC	FC, GCC-LS, GfC, SNH, SWT, TWISE	3
Advisory			
Promote the roles of existing advisory services and incorporate into their network.	FC	ALL	4, 5
Promote training on the conservation and management of broadleaved and mixed woodland to relevant landowners and managers.	FC	FC, SNH, TWISE	4, 5
Improve the quality of practical skills through trainee schemes and training for woodland contractors.	FC	GCC-LS, SWT, TWISE	3, 4
Promote the use of the Management of Semi-Natural Woodlands Forestry Practice Guides and other relevant Guidelines and advisory material.	FC	ALL	4, 5
Support community woodland groups.	FC	FC, GCC-LS, GfC, SNH	5
Future Research and Monitoring			
Monitor visitor use in selected woodlands.	FC	GCC-LS(CRS), SNH	5
Develop and implement supporting monitoring programme with reporting procedure.	FC	FC	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Communication and Publicity			
Use appropriate woodlands as a resource for environmental education with schools and community groups.	FC	GCC-LS(CRS), SNH, TWISE	5
Increase understanding of woodlands through development of effective integration with education authorities e.g. Forest Education Initiative and In-service programmes for teachers.	FC	FC, GCC-LS, SNH, TWISE	5
Utilise member organisation's websites and others as they come on line.	FC	ALL	5
Maximise publicity opportunities within key organisations.	FC	ALL	5
Liaise with Lead Agencies of National Woodland Habitat Action Plans.	FC	FC	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Review the progress of this Action Plan by 2006.	FC	FC	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Forestry Commission, Erskine House, Clydebank Business Park, CLYDEBANK G81 2DR **Tel:** 0141-941 2611 **Fax:** 0141-941 2125 **email:** david.robertson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Glasgow City Council: Development and Regeneration Services(**GCC-DRS**), Glasgow City Council: Land Services(Conservation Group) (**GCC-LS(CG)**),

Glasgow City Council: Culture and Leisure Services (**GCC-CLS**), Glasgow City Council: Education Services (**GCC-ES**), Glasgow City Council: Land Services Countryside Ranger Service (**GCC-LS(CRS)**),

Scottish Ornithologists' Club (**SOCC**), Greenspace for Communities(**GfC**), British Waterways (**BW**), Forestry Commission (**FC**), Farming Wildlife Advisory Group (**FWAG**), The WISE Group (**TWISE**)

Glasgow Natural History Society (**GNHS**), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (**RSPB**), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (**SEPA**), Scottish Natural Heritage (**SNH**), Scottish Wildlife Trust (**SWT**),

Clyde Amphibian and Reptile Group (**CARG**), Butterfly Conservation (**BC**), Concern for Swifts (**CfS**)