



EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Local Development Plan 2

Local Nature Conservation Sites

Draft Non-statutory Planning Guidance

2024

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1. Context and Purpose of the Planning Guidance

1.1. Introduction

Global declines in biodiversity are mirrored in Scotland as well as East Ayrshire with increasing urbanisation recognised as a key pressure. Planning has a critical role in protecting, conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity. The nature crisis is therefore given significant weight within national policy and the East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2. This guidance document provides a valuable part of our response to the nature crisis, as it outlines and provides detail on sites that are locally important for habitat, nature conservation, ornithology and geodiversity.

1.2. Purpose of Non-Statutory Planning Guidance

The East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2, together with any Planning Guidance, sets out the policies and criteria against which any planning application submitted in East Ayrshire will be considered.

This Non-Statutory Planning Guidance sets out detailed policy advice to help users meet the requirements of the Plan. It is therefore recommended that it be read in conjunction with the policies in the Plan and any other planning guidance relevant to the type of development proposed.

The purpose of this guidance is to expand on LDP2 Policy NE5: Protection of Areas of Nature Conservation Interest with regards to criterion iii on Local Nature Conservation Sites. The guidance provides further information and maps of the individual Sites to help guide development proposals, allowing them to safeguard and enhance nature interests.

1.3. Local Nature Conservation Sites

The purpose of the Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) is to highlight sites of local importance in terms of their nature conservation value. By identifying these Local Nature Conservation Sites, the Council does not seek to prohibit development, but to ensure that any development is considerate and sensitive to the nature conservation value of the sites in question.

Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) are non-statutory sites which can be designated for their habitat, species or geological interest, or indeed a combination of these interests. These sites are not afforded legal protection, however, they are protected through the application and implementation of specific planning policies, within the context of Local Development Plan 2, Policy NE5: Protection of Areas of Nature Conservation Interest.

1.4. How to use this Planning Guidance

This guidance is intended as a tool in helping applicants navigate their way through the requirements of Policy NE5 with regards to Local Nature Conservation Sites, illustrating extents and providing some initial information on a given sites value, habitat, biodiversity and potential protected species. The information provided is by no means exhaustive and in many occasions it will need to be supplemented

with additional appropriate surveys. These may be requested specifically by a determining Planning Officer for a given application, dependent on the finer detail and context. The guidance should always be viewed as a starting point.

2. Relevant Policy Context

2.1. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) seeks to protect and restore natural places outlining that Scotland's natural environment underpins our economy, health and wellbeing, biodiversity and climate resilience. NPF4 states that the planning system should protect, restore and enhance Scotland's natural assets and actively support the national commitment to reverse biodiversity loss, including delivering positive effects for biodiversity from new development and by securing and growing nature networks.

NPF4 contains a suite of policies which seek to achieve this. However, most relevant to Local Nature Conservation Sites is **Policy 32: Natural Places** which states that:

- a) **Local development plans should identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally valued natural assets, landscapes, species and habitats.** These assets and areas should be safeguarded in the spatial strategy in a way which corresponds with the level of their statutory status. Spatial strategies should also be designed to better connect nature rich areas through establishing and growing nature networks to help protect and restore the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural processes in their area.
- b) Development proposals that would have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment including biodiversity objectives should not be supported.
- c) Development proposals likely to have a significant effect on an existing or proposed European site (designated as a Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which is not directly connected with or necessary to their conservation management must be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of the implications for the conservation objectives. The relevant tests for such developments are set out in legislation.
- d) Development proposals that will affect a National Park, National Scenic Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest or a National Nature Reserve should only be supported where the objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the area will not be compromised; or any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance. Planning decisions for development within National Parks must be consistent with the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. All Ramsar sites are also European sites and/or Sites of Special Scientific Interest and are extended protection under the relevant statutory regimes.
- e) **Development proposals that would be likely to have an adverse effect on a protected species should not be supported unless it meets the relevant statutory tests. If there is evidence to suggest that a**

protected species is present on site or may be affected by a proposed development, steps must be taken to establish their presence. The level of protection afforded by legislation must be factored into the planning and design of the development and any impacts must be fully considered prior to the determination of the application.

f) Where non-native species are present on a site, or where planting is planned as part of a development, developers should take into account legislation on non-native species.

g) Development proposals that affect a site designated as a **Local Nature Conservation Site** or a **Local Landscape Area** should be supported where development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified; or any such effects are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of local importance.

2.2. Local Development Plan 2

2.2.1. Aims and Spatial Strategy

The LDP2 acknowledges the ongoing global nature crisis and the need for biodiversity enhancement, nature recovery and nature restoration across East Ayrshire. LDP2 includes a specific aim to:

- Protect and enhance East Ayrshire's diverse natural environment and habitats and help tackle the nature crisis

The Spatial Strategy of the Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) outlines that the Council will support inclusive green recovery, tackle biodiversity loss and enhance the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN). The Spatial Strategy recognises urbanisation as a key pressure on biodiversity and that Planning has a critical role to play in protecting and enhancing our flora, fauna and funga. The presumption against development which may have an adverse impact on sites of local, national and international importance is embedded within the Spatial Strategy of the Plan.

To ensure that Policy NE5 is fully informed, the Council appointed qualified ecologists, Land Use Consultants Ltd (LUC), to complete a review of existing Local Nature Conservation Sites as well as a handful of proposed new sites to determine their appropriateness and merit. The outcomes of the LUC review have been integrated into this Guidance document.

2.2.2. Policy

The East Ayrshire Local Development Plan 2 sets out Policy NE5: Protection of Areas of Nature Conservation Interest as follows:

Policy NE5: Protection of Areas of Nature Conservation Interest

Development should aim to protect and enhance nature and biodiversity. Positive contributions can be achieved through appropriate siting and design, in order to minimise any adverse impacts on habitats, network connectivity and species; individually or cumulatively.

In order to ensure that areas of nature conservation interest are adequately protected from any direct or indirect adverse impacts from development:

- (i) There will be a presumption against development which could adversely impact areas of international importance designated or proposed by Scottish Ministers for designation as Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation (European sites). Any development likely to have a significant effect on a European site which is not directly connected with, or necessary for, its conservation management must be subject to a 'Habitats Regulations Appraisal' or an 'appropriate assessment' of the implications for the conservation objectives. Such development will only be approved if the appraisal shows there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site. A derogation from Scottish Ministers is available for authorities to approve plans or projects which could adversely affect the integrity of a European site if:
- It has been demonstrated that there are no alternative solutions;
 - There are reasons of over-riding public interest, including social and economic reasons; and
 - Compensatory measures are taken to ensure that the overall coherence of the European site network is protected.
- (ii) Any development affecting sites of **national importance** for biodiversity and geodiversity, such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will only be permitted where it will not adversely affect the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been designated or where any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which it is designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance.
- (iii) There will be a presumption against any development which could have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of a site of local importance (i.e. Local Nature Conservation Sites and Local Nature Reserves) or the qualities for which it has been identified. This presumption against development will also apply to other sites which are undergoing or have undertaken in-situ conservation and/or long-term enhancement work (i.e. bog and peatland restoration sites) and sites of former mineral extraction that have been restored or naturally regenerated, subject to the assessment of the environmental value of any flora and fauna on the site. All sites of recognised nature conservation value will be safeguarded wherever possible. Development will only be permitted on such sites where appropriate measures will be put in place to conserve and manage, as far as possible, the site's biological and geological interest and to provide for replacement habitats, species and features where damage is unavoidable, in proportion to the nature and scale of the development and its impact. Any significant adverse impact on the integrity of the area must be clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits or at least local importance.
- (iv) The effective management and conservation of existing landscape features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora, including linear features such as rivers and existing field boundaries, and other features such as ponds and small woods and hedgerows which are essential for migration, dispersal and exchange of wild species, will be achieved. Cognisance should be given to the Central Scotland Green Network habitats and hotspots mapping.

The Council will apply 'the precautionary principle' where the impacts of a proposed development on an internationally or nationally significant natural heritage resources are uncertain but there is sound

evidence indicating that significant irreversible damage could occur. If there is any likelihood of damage, modifications to the proposal to eliminate the risk of such damage should be considered and integrated into the design. If there is uncertainty, research, surveys or assessments to remove or reduce uncertainty should be undertaken.

** Following confirmation of the UK's exit from the EU, sites designated under the Habitats Regulations will no longer form part of the formal Natura network of sites. As these sites will continue to form part of a Europe-wide network of designated sites they will in future be referred to as "European sites".*

2.2.3. Site Designation

Sites are formally designated by virtue of their inclusion in East Ayrshire's Local Development Plan 2. Map 1 (Page 9) illustrates the location and spatial distribution of all Local Nature Conservation Sites within East Ayrshire. Table 1 (Pages 10-12) provides a list of all Local Nature Conservation Sites.

3. Considerations

3.1. Effects on integrity

It is important to note that a development does not have to be within the boundaries of a Local Nature Conservation Site in order to have an adverse impact on it or affect its integrity

This guidance document should be utilised to determine if a development proposal has the potential to affect a Local Nature Conservation Site directly or indirectly. This should be utilised in order to ensure that features, components, assets and species of the Local Nature Conservation Sites are taken into account in any proposal.

It is the responsibility of an applicant/agent to demonstrate that all proposed development fulfils the requirements of all relevant applicable Local Development Plan 2 policies, including NE5: Protection of Areas of Nature Conservation Interest.

3.2. Habitat, biodiversity and protected species information

The Spatial Strategy and Policy NE5 of the Plan sets a presumption against proposals for development adversely affecting priority habitats or protected species set out within legislation, the Scottish Biodiversity List and Ayrshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Within this Guidance, where they exist, species sightings recorded on open-source biodiversity databases for sites have been provided within the habitat and biodiversity section of the relevant tables. This information was collated by LUC at the time of reviewing the East Ayrshire's local nature conservation sites. This information was up to date at the time of review; subsequent sightings and recordings may be present and it is the responsibility of landowners, prospective developers and determining Planning Officers to review potential updates and additional recordings.

The Council acknowledge the limitations of the data provided within this document. Open-source data can be an inadequate source regarding the biodiversity value of a given site, however, it provide a valuable indication of the likely presence of biodiversity. In most instances, an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, and/or other surveys could be required to provide more accurate information on the habitat and species values and assets of a given site identified within this Guidance.

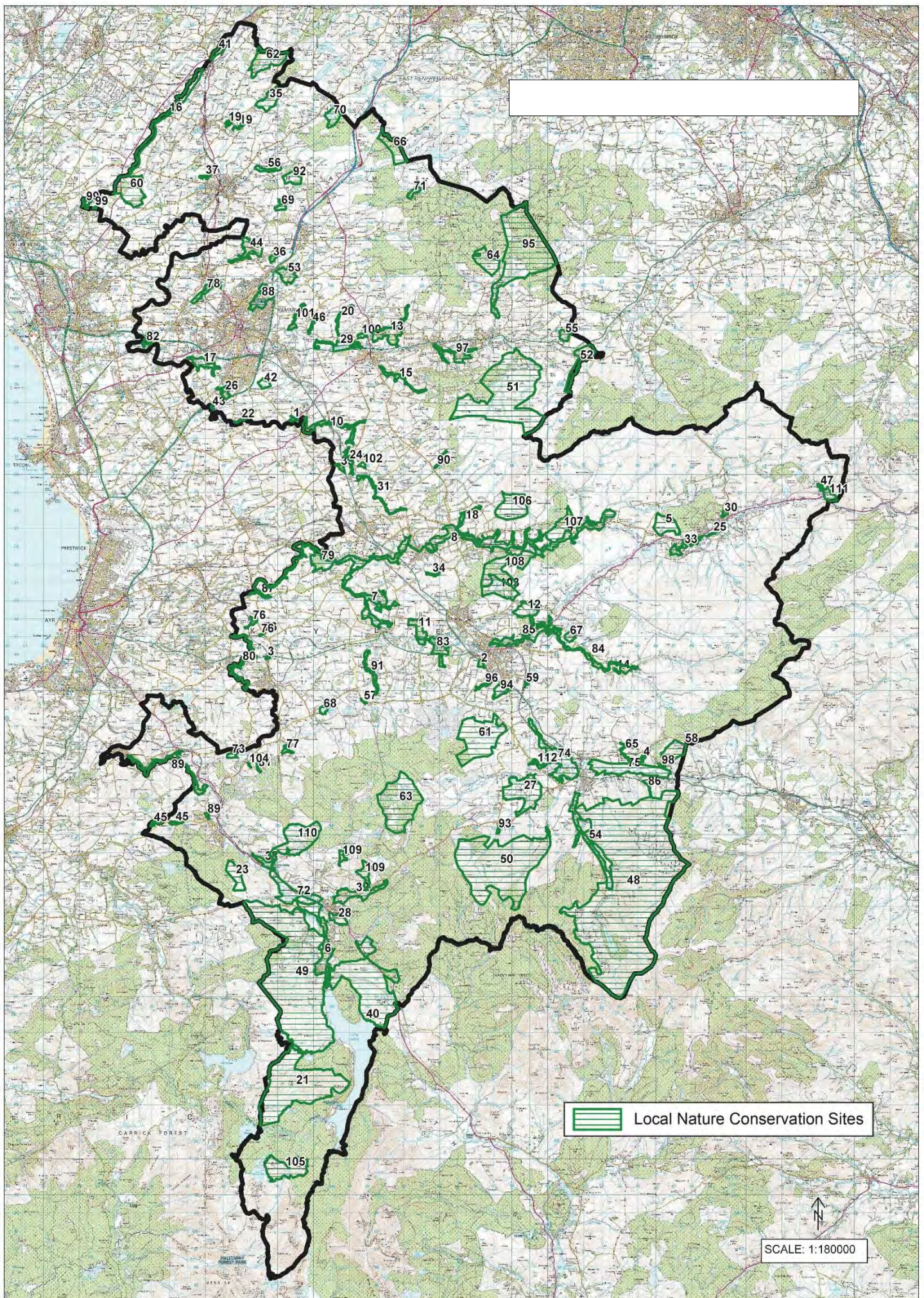


Table 1 – List of Local Nature Conservation Sites in East Ayrshire

Site No	Site Name	Approx. Central Grid Reference	Total Area (ha)	Primary Habitat Type	Page No
1	Dallars Mains	NS4533SE	6.46	Woodland and Scrub	82
2	Shankston Wood	NS5619SW	8.57	Woodland and Scrub	208
3	Drongan Wood	NS4419NW	2.84	Woodland and Scrub	96
4	Garclaugh Burn	NS6514SW	6.15	Woodland and Scrub	110
5	Marchhouse Hill	NS6627SW	108.78	Mires and Heaths	165
6	Craigengillan / Ness Glen Woodland	NS4703SE	135.26	Woodland and Scrub	73
7	Lugar Water and Auchinleck Estate	NS5023SW	167.93	Woodland and Scrub	158
8	River Ayr: Damhead to Nether Heilar	NS5125SW	240.62	Woodland and Scrub	200
9	River Ayr:Mid Heilar to Chapelhouse	NS5826SE	181.74	Woodland and Scrub	193
10	Carmell and Cessnock Water	NS4732NW	77.04	Woodland and scrub	51
11	Barony Bing	NS5221NE	56.05	Composite	24
12	Lugar Loch Wetlands	NS5822SE	88.05	Wetlands	153
13	Loudoun Castle Woodlands & Waterside	NS5137NW	116.98	Woodland and Scrub	146
14	Guelt	NS6319SE	3.7	Grasslands	126
15	Burn Anne & Holywell	NS4937NE	8.61	Composite	40
16	Upper Lugton Water	NS3747NW	148.74	Grasslands	221
17	Caprington Castle & Estate	NS4036SE	56.15	Woodland and scrub	46
18	Cleuch Burn	NS5225NW	34.92	Woodland and scrub	57
19	Dunlop House	NS4249SW	6.59	Woodland and Scrub	102
20	Polbaith Burn & Castlehill Glen	NS4838NE	15.74	Woodland and Scrub	183
21	Craiglee Uplands	NX4696SW	986.2	Composite	76
22	Howcommon (Craigie Hill)	NS4233SE	4.3	Grasslands	132
23	Wallace Moor / Keirs Hill	NS4207NE	86.89	Mires and Heaths	223
24	Cessnock Water Woodland	NS4930SW	10.97	Woodland and scrub	53
25	Kames Hill Woodland	NS6926NW	3.04	Woodland and Scrub	136
26	Treesbank Estate	NS4234NW	26.11	Woodland and Scrub	219
27	Riggfoot / Lanemark Bogside Wetland	NS5812NE	265.15	Composite	189
28	Dalmellington Town Common	NS4805SW	40.4	Grasslands	88
29	East Holmes Wetlands	NS4837SW	61.86	Wetlands	104
30	Kirk Plantation	NS6927NE	7	Woodland and Scrub	140
31	Cessnock Water	NS5029NW	30.08	Woodland and scrub	55
32	Cumnock Burn / Pennyvenie Burn	NS4906NE	114.44	Composite	80
33	River Ayr Floodplain	NS6726SE	48.65	Wetlands	198
34	Bogend Burn Scrub	NS535244	6.69	Woodland and Scrub	33
35	Totherick	NS4450NE	84.87	Grasslands	215
36	Meikle Mossie	NS4442SE	9.95	Woodland and Scrub	169
37	Hillhouse & Water Plantation	NS4046NE	7.57	Wetlands	128
38	Dunaskin Ironworks	NS4408SW	28.64	Composite	100

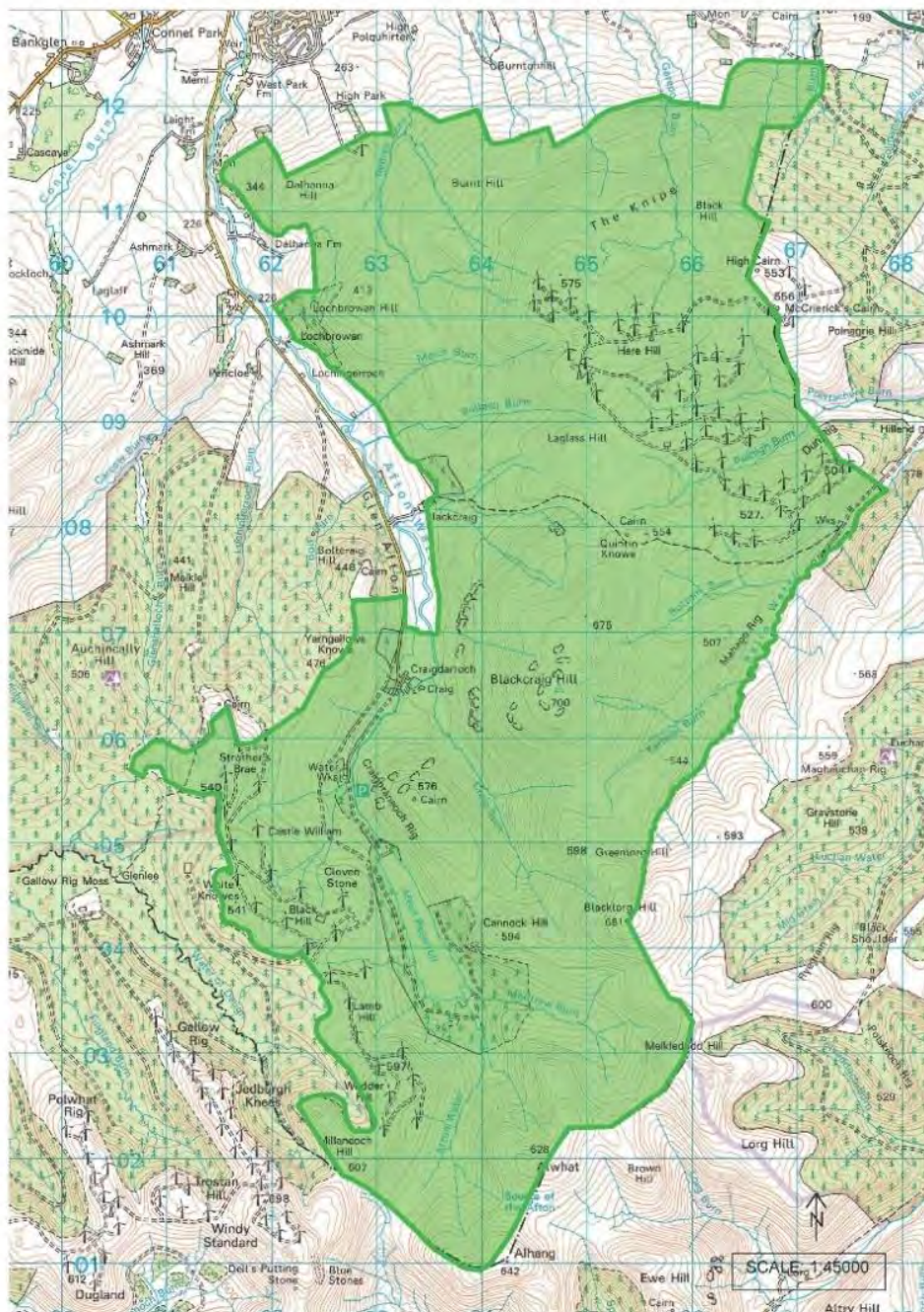
39	Crosshands Heath	NS4830SW	10.52	Woodland and Scrub	78
40	Bryan's Height	NS4901NE	841.97	Mires and Heaths	37
41	Lugton Moss	NS4153NE	24.55	Mires and Heaths	161
42	Riccarton Moss (Crossbush)	NS4435SW	22.59	Mires and Heaths	187
43	Inchgotrick Quarry	NS4133NW	2.09	Woodland and Scrub	134
44	Rowallan Estate	NS4342NE	87.88	Woodland and Scrub	204
45	Dallowie Burn Woods	NS3810NW	5.77	Woodland and Scrub	86
46	Armsheugh	NS4638SE	11.6	Woodland and Scrub	16
47	Spireslack South	NS7529SW	5.65	Geodiverse	210
48	Afton Uplands	NS5806NW	4,112	Composite	12
49	Auchenroy / Glenmount Uplands	NS4602NW	2,141	Composite	20
50	Connel Burn / Benty Cowan	NS5708SW	1,325.42	Composite	61
51	Glenoul Burn, Logan Moss, Distinkhorn	NS5734NE	1,148.57	Composite	124
52	Allanton Plains & Avon Water	NS6236NW	101	Composite	14
53	Craufurdland Estate	NS4541SE	70.09	Composite	67
54	Glen Afton	NS6111SE	136.64	Composite	118
55	Loudoun Hill	NS6037NE	30.98	Composite	149
56	Robertland & Swinzie Burn	NS4446NE	23.1	Composite	202
57	Bent Burn	NS4917SE	1.82	Grasslands	29
58	Corsencon Hill	NS6614NE	92.03	Grasslands	65
59	Ryderston Belt	NS5818SE	2.23	Grasslands	206
60	Bloak & Kennox Mosses	NS3645NE	202.52	Mires and Heaths	31
61	Glaisnock Moss / Carnivan Hill	NS5615SW	438	Mires and Heaths	116
62	Knockmade Moss	NS4453SW	159.76	Mires and Heaths	142
63	Martyrs' Moss	NS1111NE	498.45	Mires and Heaths	167
64	Pley Moss	NS5641NE	119.54	Mires and Heaths	181
65	Mansfield Burn	NS6414NW	11.86	Woodland and Scrub	163
66	Fenwick Moor (Greenfield Burn)	NS5148SW	115.08	Mires and Heaths	106
67	Low Moss	NS6120NW	22.83	Mires and Heaths	151
68	Belston Loch	NS4716NE	14.13	Wetlands	27
69	Burnfoot Reservoir	NS4544NW	18.15	Wetlands	42
70	Corsehouse Reservoir	NS4849NW	62.9	Wetlands	63
71	Craigendunton Reservoir	NS5245NE	19.33	Wetlands	71
72	Doon Valley Wetlands	NS4606SW	321.61	Wetlands	94
73	Kerse Loch	NS4214SW	12.55	Wetlands	138
74	New Cumnock Wetlands	NS3445SW	218.19	Wetlands	175
75	Nith Floodplain	NS6413NW	239.75	Wetlands	177
76	Trabboch Wetlands	NS4321NE	11.3	Wetlands	217
77	Rankinston Scub, Water of Coyle	NS4514NW	10.62	Woodland and Scrub	185
78	Carmel Water : Tour to Waterpark	NS4140SW	46.5	Woodland and scrub	49
79	River Ayr : Stair to Barskimming	NS4525SE	197.84	Woodland and Scrub	191
80	Water of Coyle	NS4221SE	40.88	Woodland and Scrub	226
81	Bow Burn	NS439135	2.83	Woodland and scrub	35
82	Craig House	NS3737SE	9.1	Woodland and Scrub	69

83	Dumfries House	NS5420SW	85.01	Woodland and Scrub	98
84	Glenmuir Water:Lugar to Kyle Castle	NS6021SE	97	Woodland and Scrub	122
85	Lugar Water : Holmhead to Braehead	NS5921SW	100.85	Woodland and Scrub	156
86	Garepool Burn	NS6512NE	3.19	Woodland and Scrub	112
87	Stair Wood / Dalmore Bank	NS4423SW	11.5	Woodland and Scrub	212
88	Dean Castle Country Park	NS4439NW	93.75	Woodland and Scrub	92
89	River Doon Woodland	NS3813NW	84.97	Woodland and Scrub	195
90	Auchmannoch Woods	NS5430NW	10.25	Woodland and Scrub	22
91	Burnock Water	NS4919NE	32.74	Woodland and scrub	44
92	Clonherb	NS4546SE	54.64	Woodland and scrub	59
93	Dalleagles Woodland	NS7510SW	4.21	Woodland and Scrub	84
94	Glaisnock Glen / Velvetere Wood	NS5717NW	36.75	Woodland and Scrub	114
95	Glen Water	NS5842NE	866.23	Woodland and Scrub	120
96	Horsecleugh Glen Woodland	NS5618SE	11.69	Woodland and Scrub	130
97	Lanfine Estate	NS5536NW	72.08	Woodland and Scrub	144
98	Merkland Wood	NS6613NW	4.7	Woodland and Scrub	171
99	Montgreenan & Lugton Water	NS3445SW	8.77	Woodland and Scrub	173
100	Orchard Plantation & West Belvedere	NS4937NE	8.61	Woodland and Scrub	179
101	Templeton Burn	NS4538SE	19.23	Woodland and Scrub	213
102	Friendlesshead Hill	NS4930NE	6.76	Woodland and Scrub	108
103	Darconner	NS5723NW	138.54	Composite	90
104	Ashentree Glen Wood	NS4313NW	1.3	Woodland and Scrub	18
105	Craigfionn / Wolf Rock / Craigmawhanna	NS4591SW	215.9	Composite / Heathland	229
106	Blood Moss	NS5728SE	189.02	Composite / Blanket bog	231
107	Crook Moss	NS5728SE	123.3	Composite / Blanket bog	233
108	Shaw Hill	NS5724NW	255.01	Composite / Blanket bog	235
109	Benbeoch / Pennyvenie Glen	NS4908NE	70.87	Geodiverse / Composite	237
110	Benquhat Hill	NS4609NW	291.31	Composite	238
111	Glenbuck Loch, Woodland and Floodplain	NS7528NE	32.54	Composite	239
112	Nith Bridge	NS5914SW	16.33	Grasslands	241

4. Local Nature Conservation Sites in East Ayrshire – Site Information

Site ID: 48

Afton Uplands

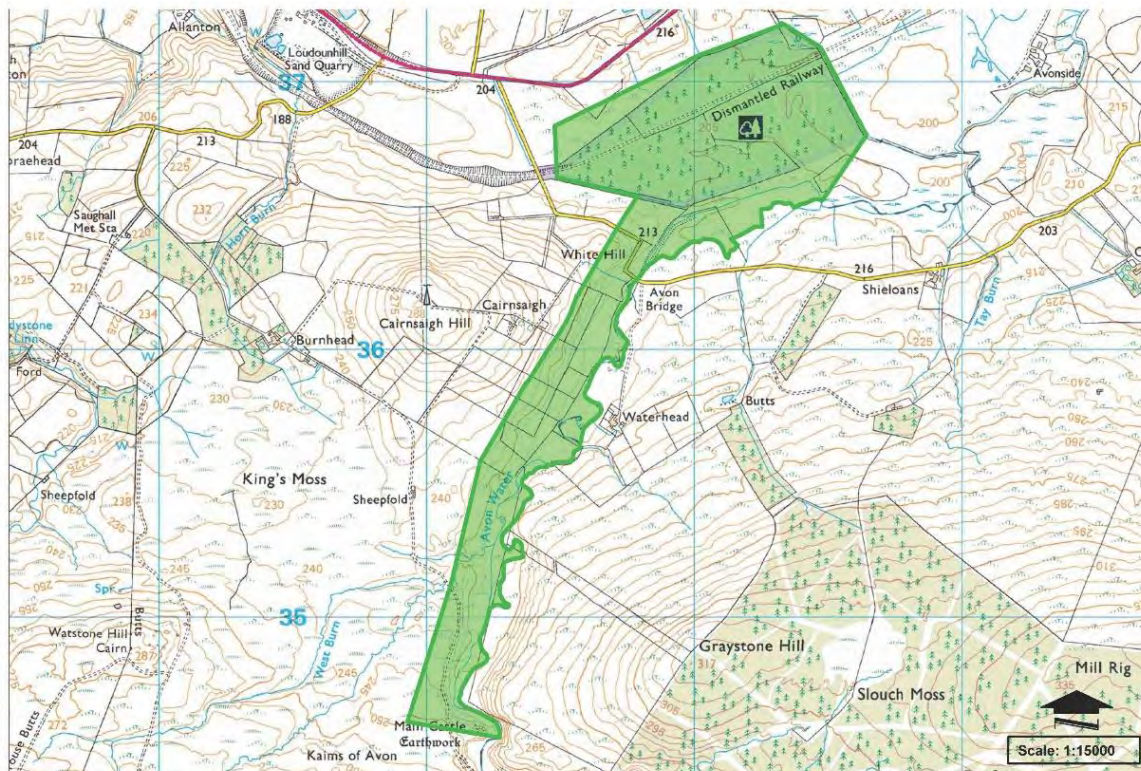


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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	4112.813	Total Area (sq m)	41128132.59
Central Grid Reference	NS5806NW		

Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 700m south of New Cumnock.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	
Habitat information	
<p><u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site comprises of large, open areas of heathland and bog. The lower lying section has forestry plantation to the southwest. A windfarm is in the centre of the site with associated roads. Pollach Burn runs across the site leading to Afton Water. Afton Water runs through the south site leading to Afton Reservoir, associated woodlands and grasslands. Craigdarroch buildings and road is also in the south of the site. The site is predominantly surrounded by agricultural land to the north, commercial forestry to the east and west, adjacent to Glen Afton LNCS (Site No 55, page 118) and Mansfield Burn (Site 66; page 163), Garclaugh Burn (Site 4; page 110), Garepool Burn (Site 87; page 112). Data provided by SWSEIC identified various records of bats, including: 11 records of brown long-eared bat, 29 common pipistrelle, 5 Nathusius's pipistrelle, 27 soprano pipistrelle, 11 pipistrelle species, 15 Myotis bats, 5 Daubenton's bats, 12 Leisler's bats, 5 natterer's, 6 noctule bats, 8 Nyctalus bats and two whiskered/Brandt's bats in 2016. There are also 5 records of otter from 1991 – 2019, 8 records of red squirrel from 1998 – 2016, 1 record of hedgehog in 2017, 2 records of mountain hare in 2019 and 2 brown hare records in 1997 within 1km of the site. SWSEIC also provided 1328 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71 records which are listed on Schedule 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>black redstart, brambling, fieldfare, golden eagle, goshawk, hobby, merlin, red crossbill, red kite, redwing, snow bunting, barn owl, osprey and whooper swan</i> 15 records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2 279 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, ring ouzel, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, wood warbler and woodcock</i> 163 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow</i> Data also included records of small heath and true beetle. 	
Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas suitable which might require management action. Some pressures from the surrounding agricultural fields may be exerted on this site in the form of grazing and pollution run-off but without a survey, this could not be confirmed. A survey of the site would be required to assess this site's potential for tree planting. 	

- Cognisance of the value of the LNCS should be noted and integrated into any subsequent development proposals (including those relating to renewables) and incorporate appropriate mitigation to reduce potentially significant negative impacts.
- Ensure that the requirements of the relevant and applicable LDP2 policies are met and addressed through design, layout and scale.



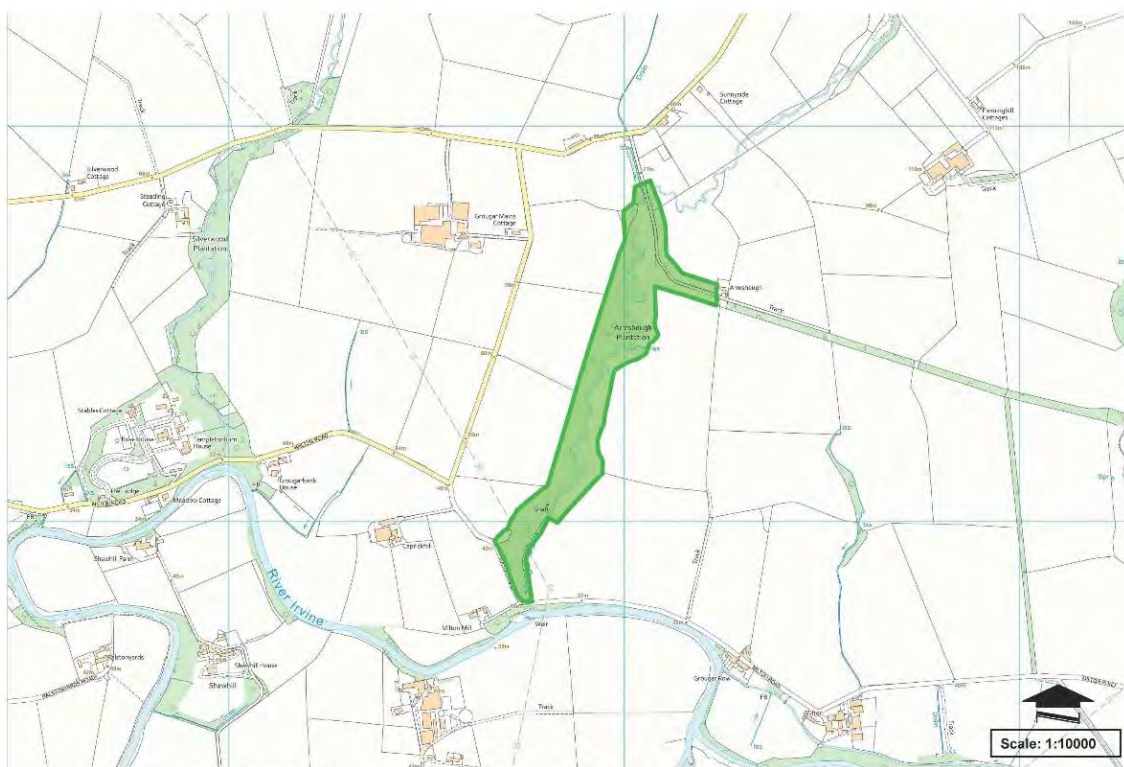
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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	101.945	Total Area (sq m)	1019446.29
Central Grid Reference	NS6236NW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 3km east of Priestland.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises two distinct sections, the northern section on aerial imagery to be predominantly wooded with the Avon Water between both sections. The southern section is encompassed by agricultural fields with Avon Water flowing through and to the east.			

- Surrounding land uses comprise of agricultural fields, and commercial and natural woodlands as well as continuation of Avon Water further east. A minor road runs between the two sections while the A71 is to the north of the site, separating this LNCS and Loudoun Hill LNCS (Site 56; page 149).
- Data provided by SWSEIC provided 178 records of birds within 500m of this site, recorded since 1995. This includes:
 - five records of Wildlife and Countryside Act, Schedule 1 protected species
 - *merlin and red crossbill*
 - one record of Wildlife and Countryside Act, Schedule 2 protected species
 - *greylag goose*
 - 43 records were listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, ring ouzel, tree pipit, wood warbler and yellowhammer*
 - five listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *Eurasian skylark, Eurasian bullfinch, common reed bunting, tree sparrow and song thrush*
- The data included no other records within 500m of the site.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Some pressures from the surrounding agricultural fields and forestry plantation may be exerted on this site in the form of grazing and pollution run-off but without a survey, this could not be confirmed.
- A survey of the site would be required to assess this site's potential for tree planting.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	11.604	Total Area (sq m)	116037.37
Central Grid Reference	NS4638SE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 500m east of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat & Nature conservation			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This site is predominantly comprised of woodland.• The land surrounding this site is mainly agricultural, with the River Irvine forming the southern boundary of the site.• The majority of woodland overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).			

- Data provided by SWSEIC included two records of terrestrial mammal within 500m of this site; one otter recorded in 1991 and one bat recorded in 1998.
- SWSEIC provided 669 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included:
 - 12 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (kingfisher, red crossbill and barn owl);
 - 130 records of species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *Including: black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and a further 99 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan
 - *Including: common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- The data also included one record of a common toad.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- The minor road and surrounding agricultural practices may apply pollution pressures from run-off.

Site ID: 104

Ashentree Glen Wood

**Primary Habitat Type**

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

1.305

Total Area (sq m)

13053.86

Central Grid Reference

NS4313NW

Context

The site is located in the south-west of East Ayrshire, approximately 1km west of Rankinston.

Interest

Habitat and nature conservation

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- The site is entirely wooded and surrounded by agricultural land.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of an otter within 500m of the site in 1991. A total of 63 records of butterflies listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) were provided and include small pearl-bordered fritillary, grayling and small heath, and 16 records of dingy skipper.
- SWSEIC provided a total of 375 records of birds within 500m of the site. These include:

- eight records of Schedule 1 species;
 - *greenshank, merlin, red crossbill, ruff and barn owl*
- five records of greylag goose, a Schedule 2 listed species;
- A further 125 records were of species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard and smew*
- 24 species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, bullfinch, skylark, linnet and song thrust*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	2141.99	Total Area (sq m)	21419936.93
Central Grid Reference	NS4602NW		

Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 100m south-west of Bellsbank.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site comprises of large, open areas of heathland and blanket bog with areas of acid grassland. A small area of conifer plantation is in the eastern section of the site, with a scattered woodland located on the north-east boundary of the site. The site lies within a B-line and is predominantly surrounded by commercial forestry and a windfarm to the west, Dalmellington and Bellsbank to the east. Craigengillan / Ness Glen Woodland SSSI is to the east, Doon Valley Wetlands LNCS (Site 73, page 94) to the north and Craiglee Uplands LNCS (Site 21; page 76) to the south. Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of common pipistrelle, two records of Daubenton's bat, one noctule record, four pipistrelle records, three records of soprano pipistrelle from 1991 – 2016, four records of otter from 1991 – 2019, four records of red squirrel between 2004 – 2018 and one record of hedgehog in 2015 within 1km of the site. SWSEIC also provided 2031 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89 records of species listed on Schedule 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>brambling, bittern, fieldfare, hen harrier, kingfisher, long-tailed duck, merlin, peregrine, quail, red crossbill, red kite, barn owl, osprey and whooper swan</i> 39 records of species listed on Schedule 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>greylag goose and goldeneye</i> 460 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, ring ouzel, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, wood warbler and woodcock</i> 254 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>black grouse, common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher</i> The data also included six records of common frog, three records of common lizard, five records of adder plus records of invertebrates including common darter, small heath, large heath, scarce grass-veneer, small pearl-bordered fritillary and true beetle. 	
Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas suitable which might require management action. The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms and pollution run-off from commercial plantations. It is considered from a review of aerial imagery that this site offers some tree planting opportunities in the agricultural fields. 	

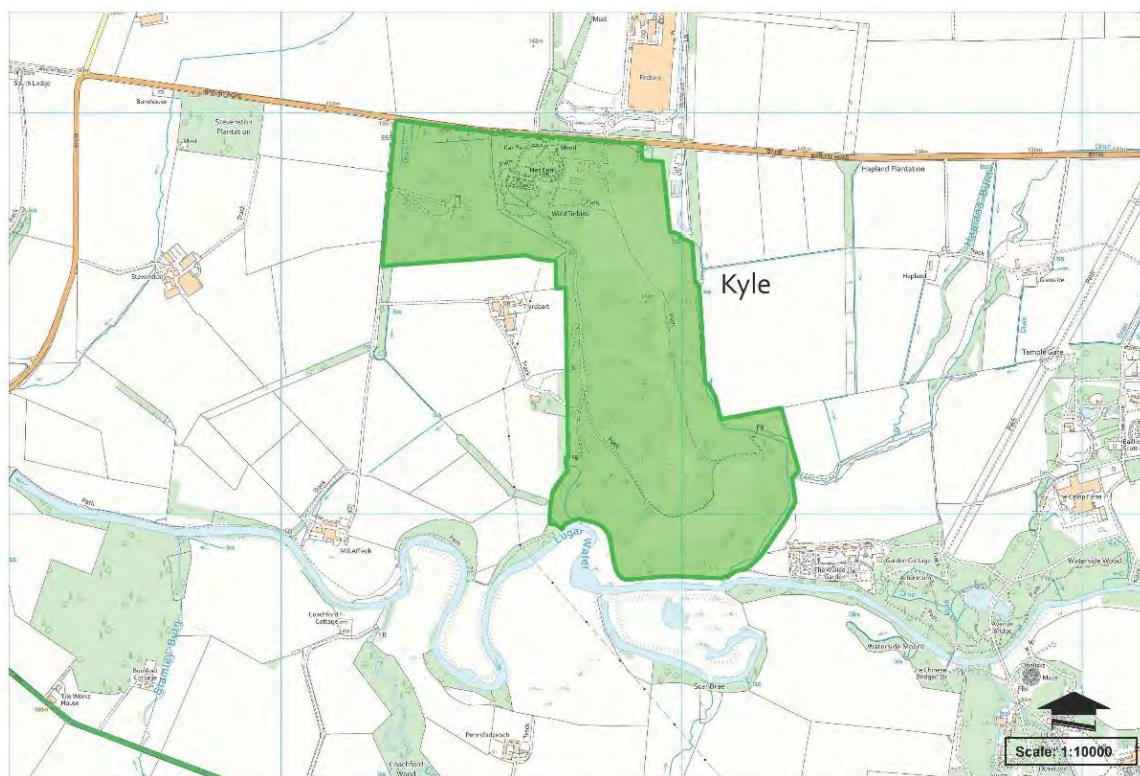


Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	10.253	Total Area (sq m)	102526.77
Central Grid Reference	NS5430NW		
Context	The site is located within the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 3.7km north of Sorn.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is comprised almost entirely of woodland, with a small grassland in the northeast outcrop and residential houses and gardens in the southeast outcrop. The site designates the area where the Limper Burn and Stra Burn merge to form the Auchmannoch Burn.			

- A proportion of this site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however the site was not selected for a site survey.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of red squirrel within 500m of this site, dated 2011.
- SWSEIC also provided 298 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 20 records of birds listed on Schedule 1
 - *fieldfare, red crossbill, redwing and barn owl*
 - 86 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - a further 33 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher.*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be required to complete a LNCS assessment, identify any areas suitable for tree planting, or which required management to protect.
- Runoff from agriculture remains a potential pressure to this site. Encroachment from residential houses and gardens, as well as the surrounding agriculture may also put pressure on the site.



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Primary Habitat Type

Composite

Total Area (ha)

56.050

Total Area (sq m)

560499.67

Central Grid Reference

NS5221NE

Context

The site is approximately 1.2 km north of Ochiltree.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat

- The site is a composite site, which comprises predominantly broadleaf woodland of natural and planted origins with species such as willow, silver birch, aspen, sycamore, hawthorn and ash. A key ecological feature is the neutral / calcareous grassland within the north of the site.
- The site also contains open mosaic habitat (OMH) which is valuable

- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)
- Around the A-frame in the north of the site, which is a tourist attraction, there are tarmac paths, a picnic area on poor-semi improved grassland, an area of bare ground in the form of small ramps for bikes, and a hard standing car park.
- Immediately west of the car park there is a small coniferous plantation woodland of Sitka spruce.
- Much of the rest of the site comprises a mix of scrub woodland and ephemeral / short perennial as the bare land is slowly colonised. Species in these areas include aspen, willow, hawthorn and wild strawberries
- A large, derelict building is present within the west of the site.
- A small marshy grassland dominated by meadowsweet, soft rush and common reed is present in the southeast of the site.
- A small watercourse flows within the southeast of the site, adjacent to the marshy grass

Biodiversity

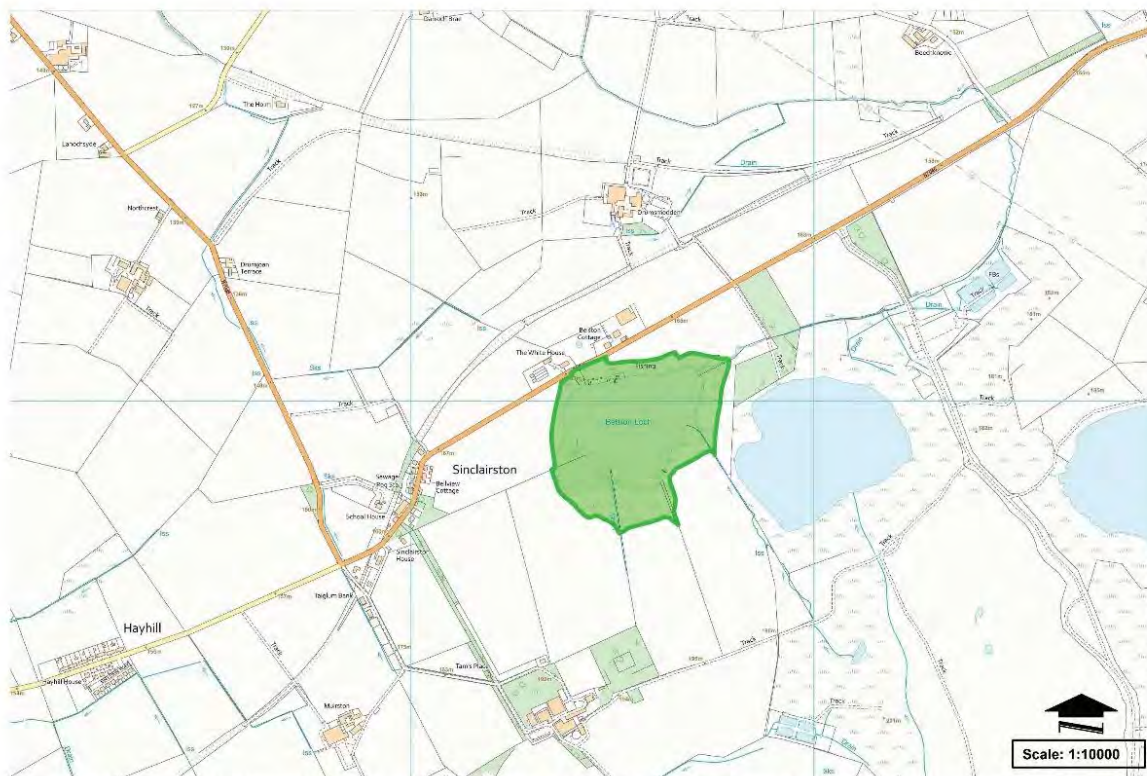
- Post-industrial land rich in species, including notable invertebrates and plants
- Grassland species include - upright Brome, crested dogs tail, vetch, smooth meadow grass, tufted hair grass, white clover, marsh thistle, creeping buttercup, nettles, Yorkshire fog, cocks foot, soft rush, common reed and ragged rob
- Invertebrates including but not limited to - common darter, dingy skipper, small heath, grayling, small pearl-bordered fritillary and true beet
- Protected species may occur either within or in close proximity to site (SWSEIC identified records of otter and brown hare within 500m of the site)
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Schedule 1 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) species
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified two records of otter in 1991 and 2019, and one record of brown hare in 2019 within 500m of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 4000 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 80 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *brambling, fieldfare, kingfisher, merlin, red crossbill, redwing, red kite and barn owl*
 - four record of species listed on Schedule 2 greylag goose and goldeneye
 - 551 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *bean goose, black-headed gull, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and 374 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- The data also included two records of common frogs and 49 invertebrates including common darter, dingy skipper, small heath, grayling, small pearl-bordered fritillary and true beetles.

Protected Species

- The woodlands may provide suitable habitat for bats and badgers while the grasslands provide suitable habitat for a range of invertebrates and common species of reptiles as well as good foraging habitat for bats, badgers, birds. The marshy grasslands also provide habitat for common species of amphibians.

Management

- The grasslands within this site are rare compared to other grasslands included within the current LNCS Network. Further survey of these may be beneficial to aid the management suggestions.
- The road bordering the north of the site potentially exerts some run-off pollution pressures on the site.
- Some tree planting has occurred within this site to date, but due to the presence of interesting and rare grasslands within the site, no further tree planting is recommended within this site.
- Encroachment of trees to the grasslands should be halted. Some tree felling may be beneficial to preserve and possibly extend the grasslands within the site.
- Elsewhere, within the areas of scrub and ephemeral / short perennial habitats, natural colonisation and succession is underway and should be allowed to continue naturally, without management.


Primary Habitat Type

Wetlands

Total Area (ha)

14.131

Total Area (sq m)

141306.82

Central Grid Reference

NS4716NE

Context

The site is approximately 260m east of Sinclairston.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- This site comprises of an area of wetland habitat, with scrub and trees to the west and grassland surrounding the loch. Taiglum Burn runs into the loch from the and small buildings are present to the north.

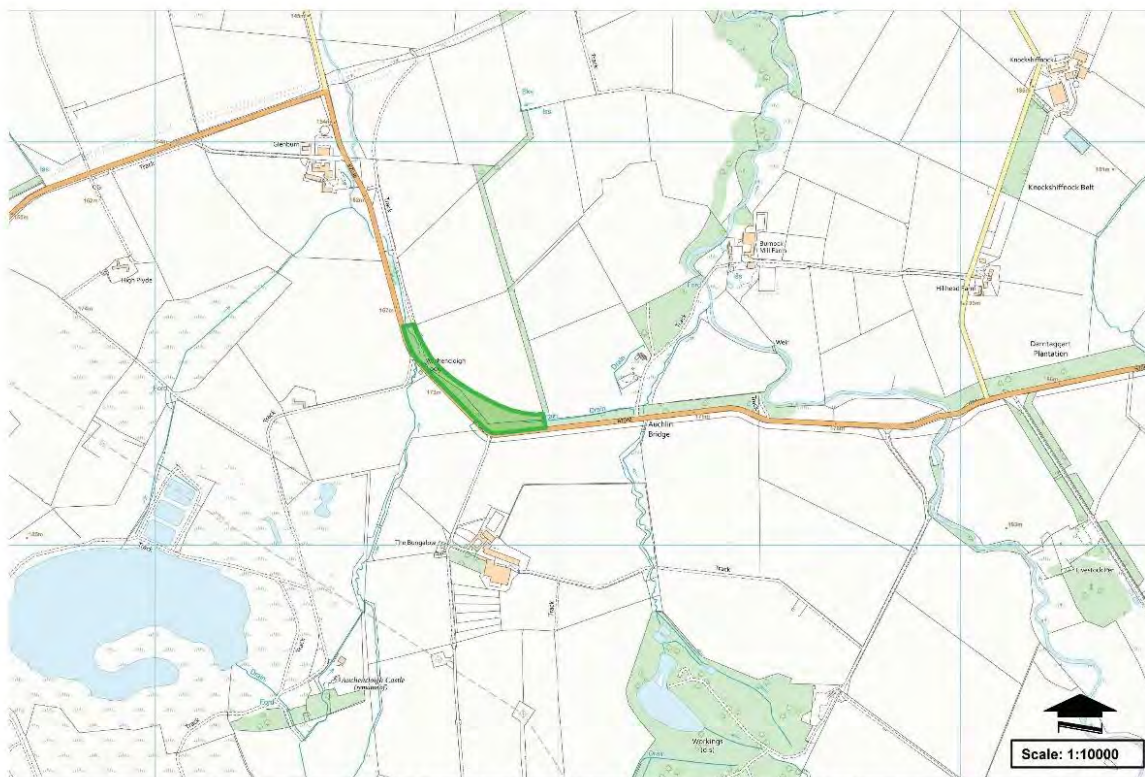
- Surrounding land uses comprises Sinclairston to the west, a minor road B7046 immediately north of the site, two other waterbodies to the east, scattered woodland and open grasslands in all other directions.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of soprano pipistrelle in 2016, one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 319 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - five records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *barn owl, long-tailed duck and scaup*
 - three records of species listed on Schedule 2 (greylag goose)
 - 48 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard and swift
 - and six further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting and song thrush*
- Records also included one record of common frog and one record of beetle.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.
- Cognisance of the value of the LNCS should be noted and integrated into any subsequent development proposals (including those relating to renewables) which may arise on site and be incorporate appropriate mitigation to reduce potentially significant negative impacts.
- Ensure that the requirements of the relevant and applicable LDP2 policies are met and addressed through design, layout and scale.

Site ID: 57

Bent Burn



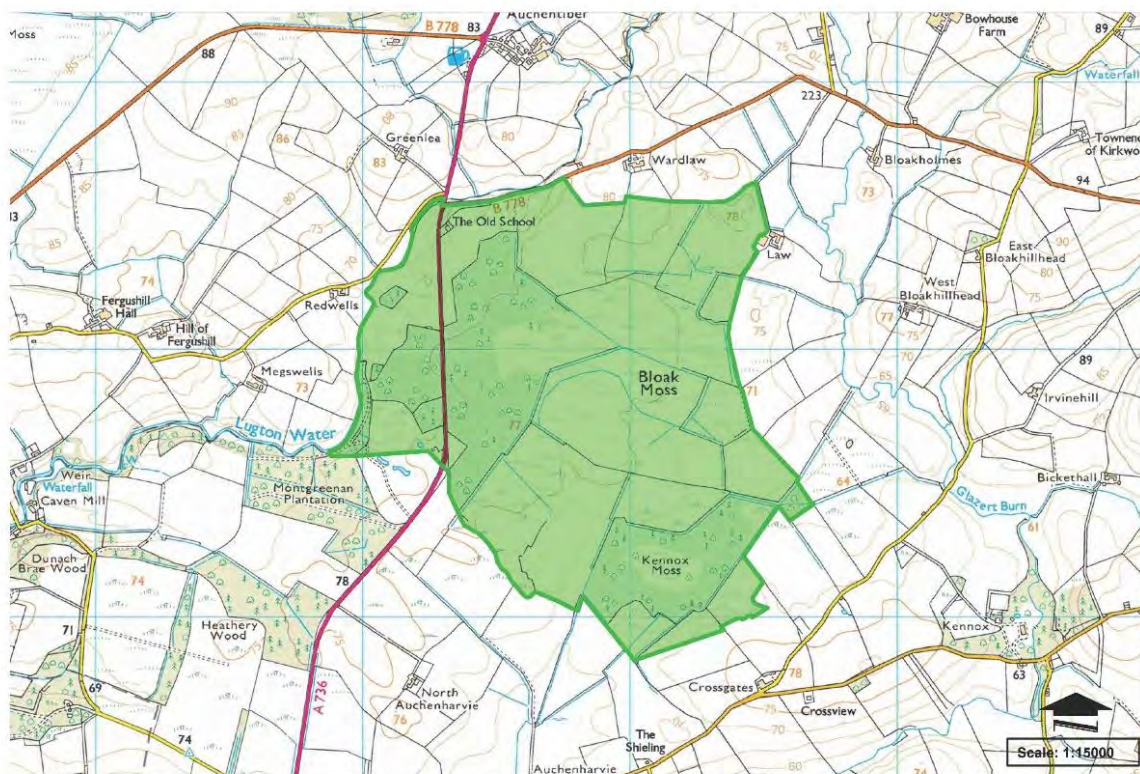
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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	1.823	Total Area (sq m)	18233.22
Central Grid Reference	NS4917SE		
Context	The site is located in the west of East Ayrshire, approximately 2km east of Sinclairston.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site lies adjacent to public road B7046 and is 600m from Burnock Water LNCS (Site 92; page 44) and comprises an open grassland, scrub and mature trees on aerial imagery.			

- Surrounding land uses agricultural farmland, Closs Burn, Burnock Burn, broadleaf woodland and residential buildings with associated minor roads.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified two records of terrestrial mammals of otter from 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 112 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included one record of barn owl listed on Schedule 1, one record of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2, 36 records of birds listed on the SBL (curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, tree pipit, wood warbler and yellowhammer) and a further 10 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (Eurasian skylark, common reed bunting, linnet, Eurasian bullfinch and spotted flycatcher). Comprises an open grassland, scrub and mature trees

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Mires and Heaths

Total Area (ha)

202.521

Total Area (sq m)

2025212.20

Central Grid Reference

NS3645NE

Context

The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 3km east of New Cumnock.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

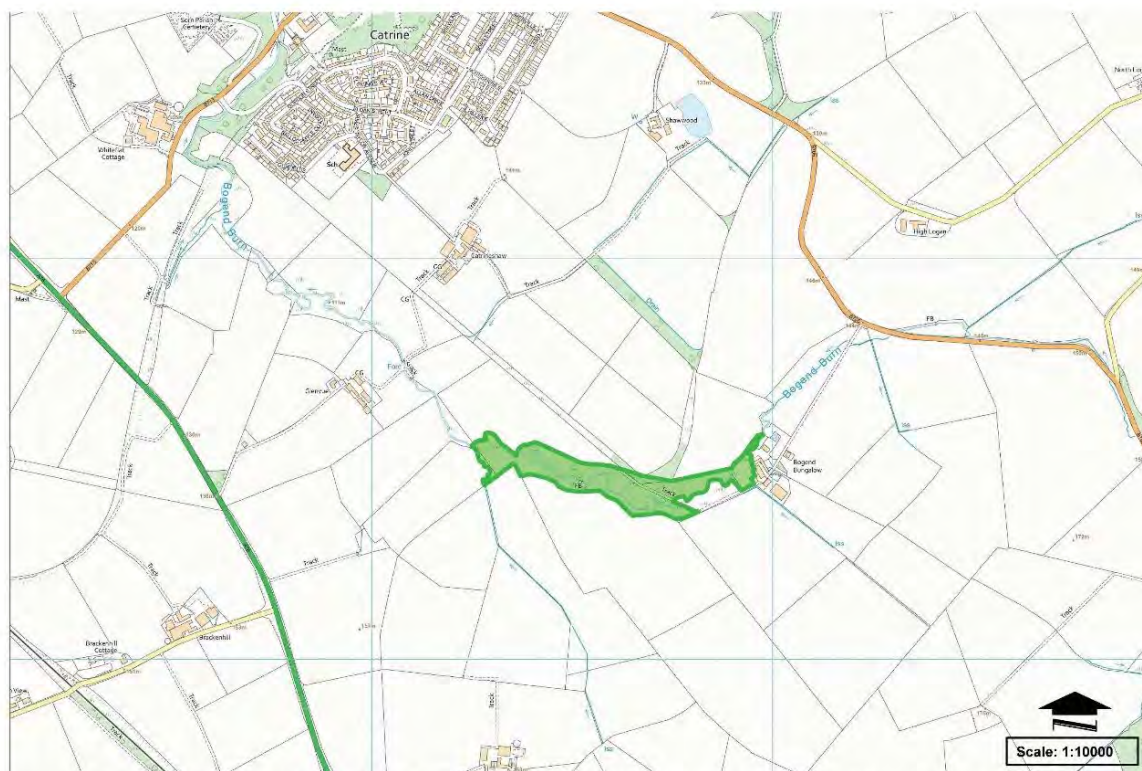
Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- This site comprises agricultural farmland in the north and south and bog or wetland in the centre and scrub and trees to the south and west. The site is bordered to the north by B778 road and Lochilbo Road to the west of the site. Lugton Water watercourse is to the west of the site. There are also two farms to the north boundary.

- Surrounding land uses comprise similar habitats, including scrub, agricultural fields, and Upper Lugton Water LNCS (Site 16, page 223) is to the north.
- Data provided by SWSEIC included six records of brown hare from 2012 – 2015, one record of brown-long eared bat, one record of common pipistrelle, one record of pipistrelle, one noctule bat, one natterer's bat and one soprano bat record in 2016 within 1km of this site.
- SWSEIC provided 934 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 5 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - red crossbill, red kite, redwing
 - 3 records of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2
 - 113 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift and yellowhammer
 - 118 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow
- Data also included large heath, small heath and common darter.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas suitable for tree planting or which might require management action.
- Agricultural run-off from the surrounding fields may exert some pressures on this site, and pressures from the access tracks used across the site.
- Tree planting could be considered within the improved grasslands within the site, but not within any areas of bog.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and scrub
Total Area (km²)	0.0669
Central Grid Reference	NS535244
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<p><u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site predominantly comprises a woodland of ash, hawthorn, willow, rowan, beech, holly and silver birch, with an understory of gorse, bramble, Yorkshire fog, creeping bent, cleavers, cocks foot, creeping thistle, marsh thistle, common bird's foot trefoil, ragged robin, hedge woundwort, common spotted orchid, vetch, red campion and St John's wort. The watercourse which flows through the site from east to west is generally sluggish and shallow, with muddy or stony substrate and banks. 	

- The grasslands included within this site are agricultural fields used for growing silage and grazing cattle and donkeys.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of a hedgehog in 2018 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 25 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included 10 records of species listed on the SBL (curlew, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel and wood warbler) and five further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (Eurasian bullfinch, and spotted flycatcher).

Protected Species

- The woodland has potential for a range of protected species such as bats, badger, nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles. However, the watercourse was not considered suitable for otter or water vole due to being shallow and sluggish and entirely shaded, offering no resting site potential and little commuting or foraging potential.
- One grey squirrel was noted within the east of the woodland.

Management

- An invasive species survey would be appropriate.
- Agricultural fields surrounding this site, likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off, especially as the topography slopes down into this site from the surrounding fields.
- Consideration could be given to planting native tree species within the grassland in the west of the site, along the banks of the watercourse to extend the woodland coverage.
- Giant hogweed plant was identified within the site and should be removed as soon as possible.
- Grey squirrel control methods could be beneficial to control the local population and spread of this invasive species.


Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and scrub

Total Area (ha)

2.83

Total Area (sq m)

28333.93

Central Grid Reference

NS439135

Context

The site is located in the south-west of East Ayrshire, approximately 1 km west of Rankinston.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- The site is entirely wooded and listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)
- Birch, Alder, Oak and Pine
- The site has agricultural land to the west and Bow Burn, scrub woodland and forestry plantations to the east.

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of an otter within 500m of the site in 1991. A total of 63 records of butterflies listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) were provided and include small pearl-bordered fritillary, grayling and small heath, and 16 records of dingy skipper.
- SWSEIC provided a total of 375 records of birds within 500m of the site. These include:
 - eight records of Schedule 1 species;
 - greenshank, merlin, red crossbill, ruff and barn owl)
 - five records of greylag goose, a Schedule 2 listed species;
 - A further 125 records were of species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard and smew
 - 24 species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - common reed bunting , bullfinch, skylark, linnet and song thrust).

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas might require management action. This would also be useful to identify any areas of high species diversity anticipated in ancient woodland, including fauna, flora and funga.



Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	841.974	Total Area (sq m)	8419741.26
Central Grid Reference	NS4901NE		

Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.1km south of Bellsbank.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site is predominantly a mosaic of wet modified bog, dry heathland, blanket bog, and acid grassland. The lower lying western section of the site consists of numerous hillocks of dry heathland, acid grassland and bracken, with wet modified bog (purple moor grassland), marshy grassland and rare, small patches of bog recorded in the depressions between the hillocks. A small section of semi-natural conifer plantation exists in the west of the site, with a mixed understory of acid grassland, marshy grassland and ericoids in small patches. A small strip of semi-natural broadleaved woodland exists in the west of the site, running parallel with a small stream, adjacent to the north end of Loch Doon. The north of the site is steep sloped ground consisting of acid grassland, scree and dry heathland. Within the centre of the site, habitats are similar to habitats previously mentioned in the west of the site, however they occur in wider expanses. In the southern section of the site there is a large expanse of wet modified bog (Molina grassland), broken up by numerous small hillocks of acid grassland subject to sheep grazing pressure. Loch Muck, located in the south-east of the site is bordered by a variety of habitats that include wet modified bog, acid grassland, marshy grassland, dry heathland and improved grassland. The largest areas of dry heathland exist north-west from the centre of the site, with the largest expanses of blanket bog present north-east and east from the centre of the Site. To the east of the site, beyond the A713, wet heath/acid grassland and mix scattered trees dominate the landscape. This site lies within a B-Line. Data provided by SWSEIC identified seven records of invertebrates within 1km which included small heath butterfly (1), large heath butterfly (1) and the water beetles; <i>Oreodytes davisii</i> (2), <i>Hydroporus obsoletus</i> (1), <i>H. longicornis</i> (2). SWSEIC also provided 1215 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57 records of species listed on Schedule 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hen harrier (1), kingfisher (1), merlin (3), red crossbill (17), red kite(3), red wing(2), barn owl (8), osprey(20), white-tailed eagle (1) and whooper swan (1) 16 records of greylag goose and 1 record of goldeneye listed on Schedule 2 85 records of birds listed on the SBL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dunlin, kestrel, kingfisher, merlin, red kite, redwing, swift, barn owl, osprey, white-tailed eagle, whooper swan and woodcock and 165 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet song thrush and spotted flycatcher 	
<u>Protected Species</u>	

Birds

- Considering the upland habitats present in the Site, the habitat is suitable for ground nesting birds such as skylark *Alauda Arvensis* and meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, both which were recorded on Site. Within the small strip of semi-natural conifer forest in the west of the Site, coal tit *Periparus Ater*, Willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and tree pipit *Anthus trivialis* were recorded. A cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* was also recorded in the conifer plantation to the west out with the Site.
- Skylark, tree pipit and cuckoo are listed red under UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List, while meadow pipit and willow warbler are listed as amber.

Bats

- The site offers little to no roosting opportunities for bats, with the only existing woodland consisting of a small strip of broadleaved and conifer in the west of the Site. Loch Muck in the south-east offers foraging opportunities to bats, but beyond this, foraging opportunities are limited. Furthermore, commuting opportunities are limited due to the absence of extensive linear features e.g., hedgerows, woodland, tree lines and large stream or rivers.

Otter

- Numerous small streams, as well as Eriff Burn, Gaw Glen Burn and Loch Muck are located within the Site. Some watercourses on Site are also connected to the wider landscape e.g., Loch Doon. It is likely that the Site forms a part of an otter territory which is used throughout the year. One old otter spraint was recorded in Gaw Glen Burn in the west of the Site.

Management

- Reduce grazing pressure and the use of burning as a method of land management. This would prevent further areas of dry heathland converting to acid grassland.
- Attempts should be made to begin damming the numerous drains present within the site. Focus should be in areas where blanket bog still exists, rather than drains within wet modified bog areas. This could potentially allow a small area of M18 blanket bog to recover and expand.
- The removal of immature sitka trees in the east section of the site that have self-seeded on blanket bog is also recommended.
- By reducing grazing pressure dramatically and damming drains, large areas of blanket bog may recover and improve in species richness and diversity.



Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	8.614	Total Area (sq m)	86143.20
Central Grid Reference	NS4937NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately south of Galston.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A natural watercourse flanked by a mosaic of grassland, woodland and scrub• The grassy slopes tend to be species-rich and contain orchids• Wet flushing on the slopes contributes to the habitat and species diversity• The woodland is native and semi-natural			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			

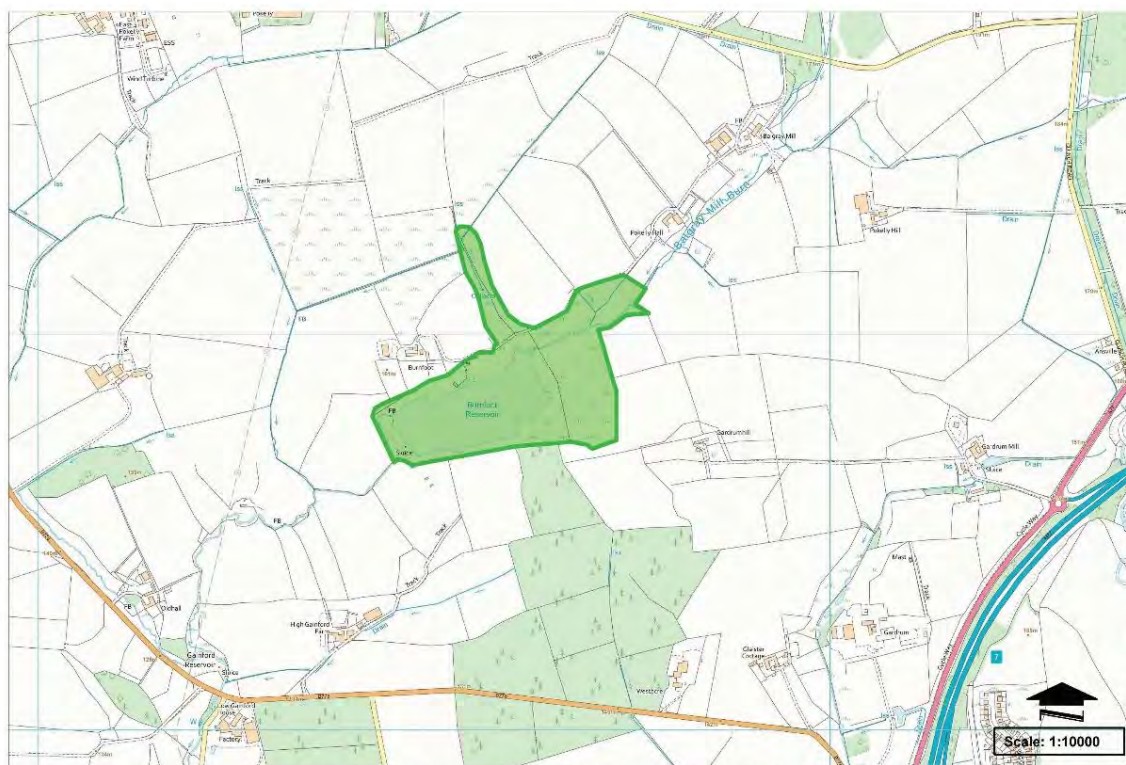
- Habitats on site are dominated by broadleaf woodland. Tree species included alder, ash, hazel, silver birch, beech, holly, hawthorn, oak, and rowan with other species such as ivy, creeping bent, false oat grass, cocks foot, hogweed, nettles, bramble, creeping thistle, greater wood rush and greater stitchwort.
- One neutral grassland is present within the north of the site. This grassland included species such as creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, perennial rye grass, creeping buttercup, knapweed, nettles, meadowsweet and ragwort. This area was at the bottom of a field and adjacent to the watercourse therefore is likely inundated when the river water level is higher.
- Small areas of improved grasslands are included within this site which tend to be the edges of the surrounding fields rather than distinct grasslands. This is likely the result of a mapping error when digitising the original maps.
- A small number of residential houses are included within the site boundary.
- A watercourse flows through the centre of the site. The watercourse is typically 5m wide, variable depth and rocky.
- The very southeast of the site could not be accessed due to dense vegetation, a lack of path and no access from the surrounding land.
- Two minor roads cross the site while others border the site.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified nine records of bats between 1990 and 2014, two records of otter in 1991 and 2015 and one record of red squirrel in 2016 within 500m of the site. SWSEIC also provided 188 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - six records of barn owl which are listed on Schedule 1
 - 70 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, swift, tree pipit, wood warbler, woodcock and yellowhammer
 - 20 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - Eurasian bullfinch, song thrush and tree sparrow

Protected Species

- No evidence of protected species was identified during the survey however the watercourse and surrounding banks and woodland provide excellent potential habitat for otter, while the woodlands themselves provide good habitat for other protected species including bats, red squirrel, nesting birds and common species of amphibians and reptiles.

Management

- This site is well used by members of the public for dog walking, particularly within the northwest of the site which is easily accessible from Galston. There is some signage within the woodland in the northwest of the site suggesting some local enthusiasm for the site, which may increase human pressures on the woodland.
- The residential properties and roads within and surrounding the site likely exert some pollution run-off pressures.
- Some native, deciduous tree planting has occurred within the south of the site therefore further tree planting is not considered necessary at this time.
- As this site is so well-used by the public, it could be used to educate the public about LNCS within East Ayrshire.
- Rhododendron should be removed.



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Primary Habitat Type

Wetlands

Total Area (ha)

18.159

Total Area (sq m)

181593.14

Central Grid Reference

NS4544NW

Context

The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, 1km north of Fenwick.

Interest

Habitat & Ornithological Interest

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- This site comprises one reservoir, with open grassland with scrub surrounding the boundary. Balgray Mill Burn runs across the site, and a minor road runs adjacent to the nor
- Valuable fresh water body with marginal vegetation
- Local value for breeding and wintering birds
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of an otter in 1991 within 500m of the site.

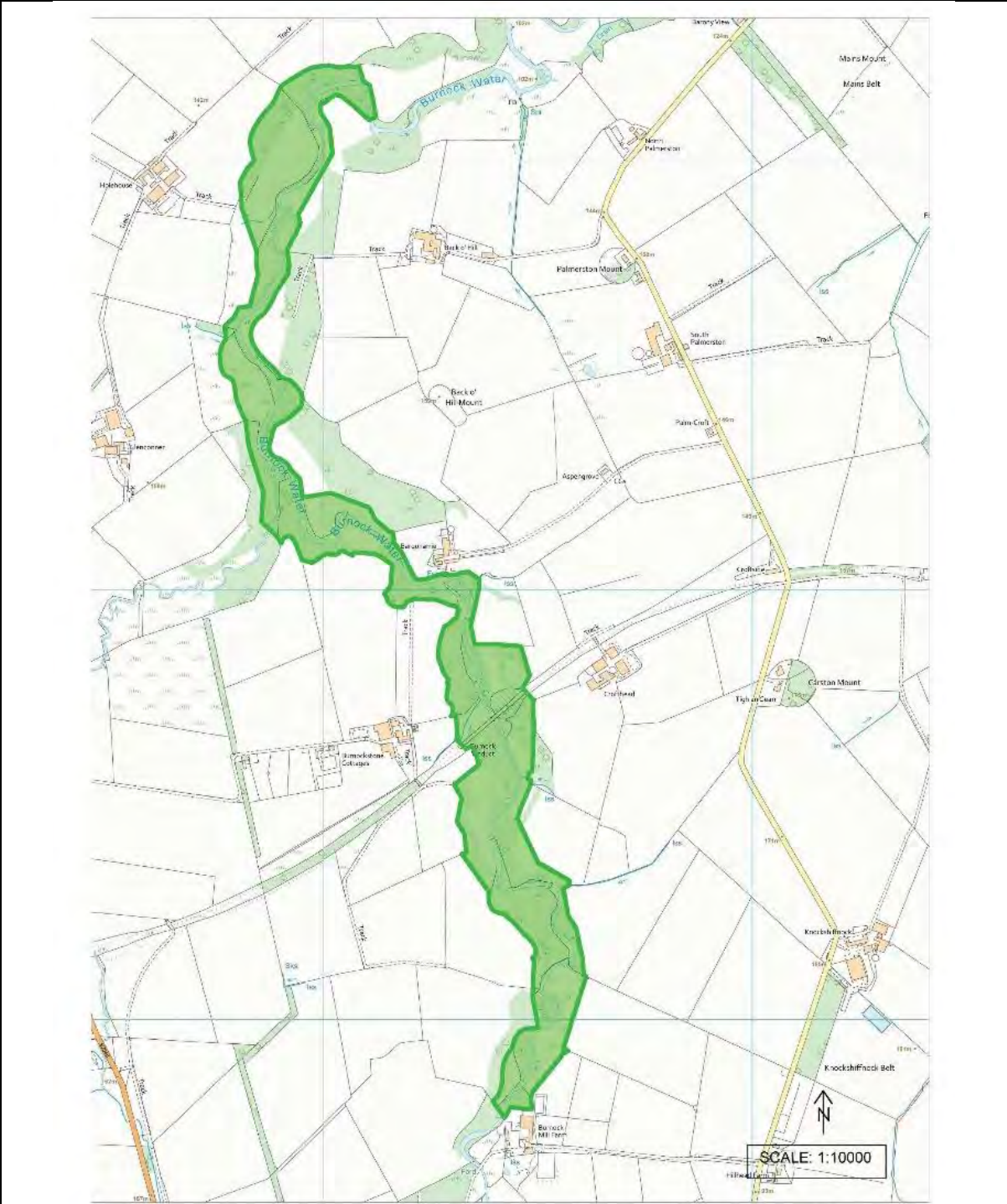
- SWSEIC also provided 330 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 7 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
 - green sandpiper, long-tailed duck, merlin, ruff, scaup and barn owl
 - 83 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard and yellowhammer
 - and 26 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, lesser whitethroat, linnet and song thrush

Protected Species

- Protected species likely occurring either within or in close proximity to site

Management

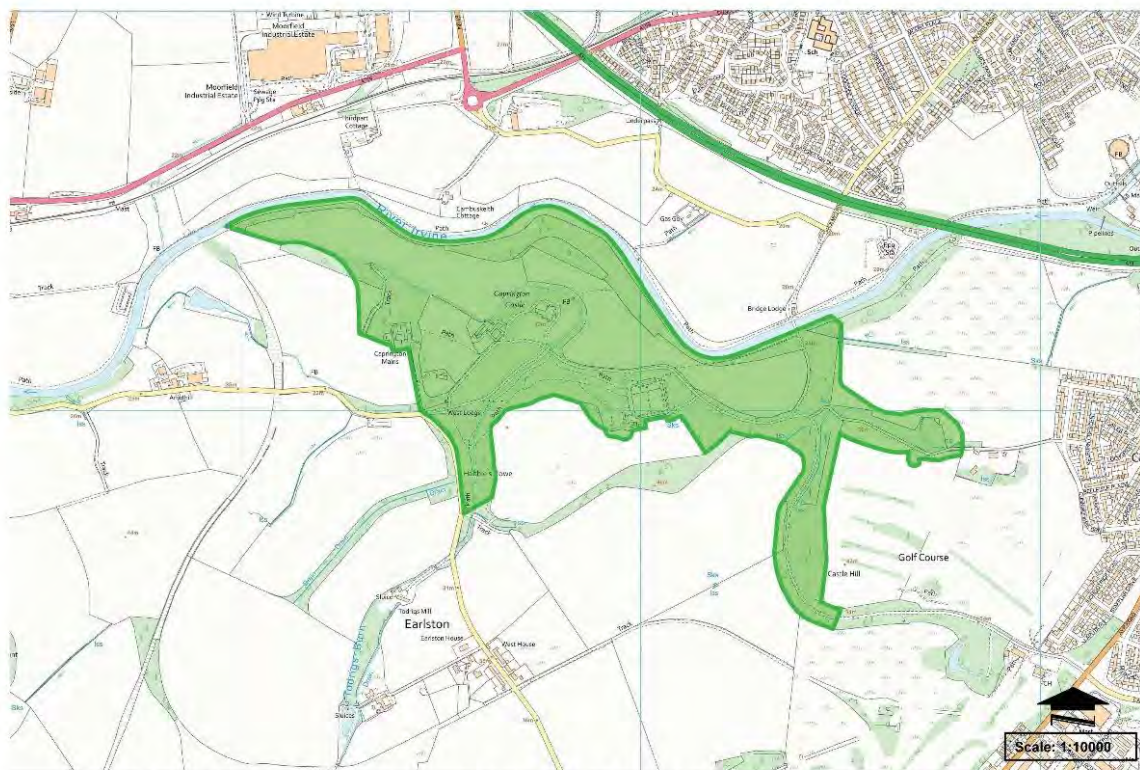
- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action or further protection.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	32.740	Total Area (sq m)	327403.96

Central Grid Reference	NS4919NE
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 600m south of Ochiltree.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<p><u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site is comprised of the Burnock Water watercourse and surrounding woodlands, grasslands and scrub. The site is surrounded by agricultural farmland, with a number of farm steadings adjacent to the site boundary. There are no roads immediately adjacent, or within the site, and only one bridge, likely used as a farm access track within the site. • None of this site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however the nearest block of woodland listed, is immediately adjacent and east of this site. • Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of terrestrial mammals within 500m of the site including one record of a bat in 2002 and two records of otter in 1991. • SWSEIC also provided 459 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12 records of Schedule 1 listed species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ kingfisher, merlin and barn owl ○ three records of greylag goose, a Schedule 2 listed species ○ 133 species listed on the SBL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, wood warbler, woodcock and yellowhammer ○ and 46 records of birds listed on the Ayrshire BAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow 	
Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be required to complete a LNCS assessment, identify any areas suitable for tree planting. • This site is immediately surrounding by farmland so it may be under pressures such as pollution and habitat alterations associated from intensive agricultural practices. 	



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Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

56.150

Total Area (sq m)

561498.52

Central Grid Reference

NS4036SE

Context

The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately west of Kilmarnock.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- The site comprises two main habitats: woodland and grassland. The woodlands, generally around the edges of the site, are a mix of semi-natural broadleaf woodlands, mixed woodland plantations and coniferous woodland plantations. The semi-natural broadleaf woodlands include a range of tree species, as well as an understory of male fern, red campion, bluebell, wild garlic, pendulous sedge and bramble, however the majority of the ground flora was rhododendron. The grasslands within the centre of the site are predominantly poor-semi

improved grasslands, though small areas of improved and amenity grasslands are present. The poor semi-improved grasslands contained species such as Timothy, perennial rye, meadow foxtail, broadleaf dock, creeping buttercup, clover, cow parsley, nettles, red campion and cleavers.

- Two watercourses are present with the Site; one in the east and one in the west, both unnamed. The eastern watercourse is narrow and relatively shallow. The western watercourse flows through the woodlands and around the castle. Through the woodlands, this watercourse is similar in description to the eastern watercourse. Around the castle, this watercourse is channelised with amenity grassland immediately bordering it and has no potential for protected species in this section.
- Both watercourses flow into the River Irvine which forms the northern boundary of this site, and are adjacent to paths well-used by people therefore both are quite disturbed.
- Several structures are present, including residential housing and two derelict gatehouses.
- Much of the site is dominated by large stands of rhododendron.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), and the site overlaps with a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified two records of otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 326 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes
 - 99 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - black-headed gull, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, swift, woodcock and yellowhammer
 - a further four records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet and song thrush
 - The data also included one record of a grayling.

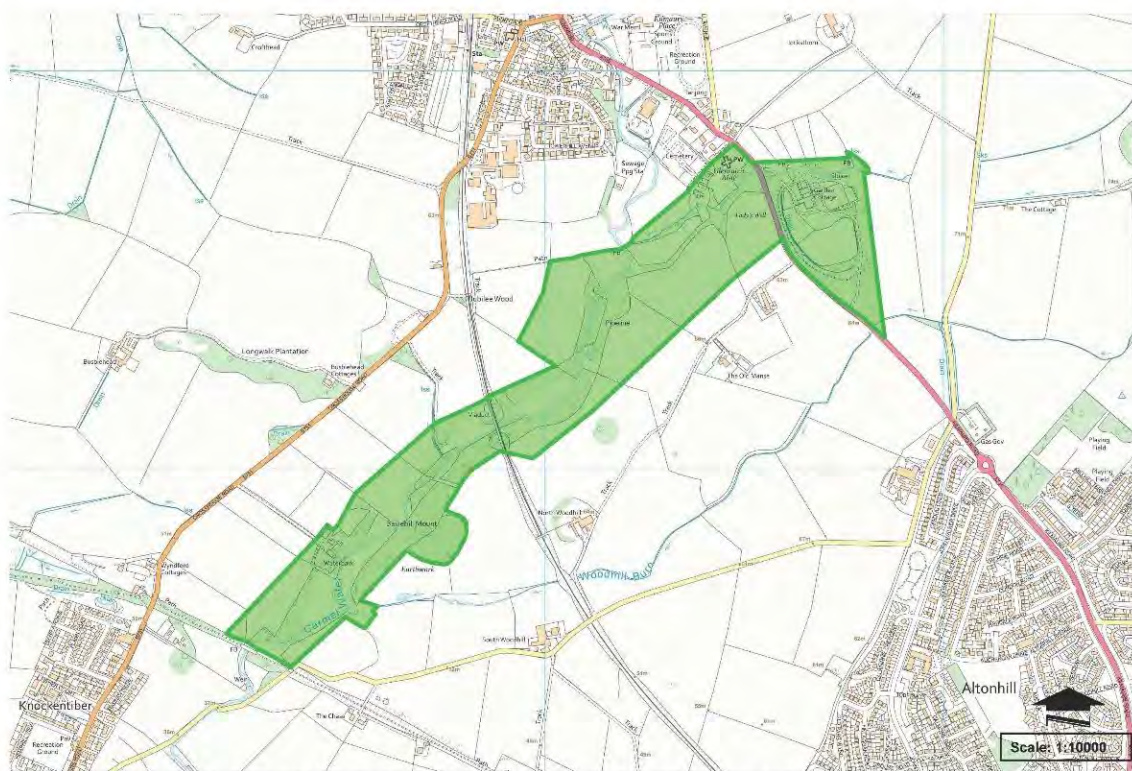
Protected Species

- The woodlands likely provide potential habitat for roosting bats, given the variety of trees present. The grasslands and River Irvine then provide suitable foraging habitat, and the tree lines, watercourses and other linear features within the site and surrounding habitat offer good commuting habitat to the wider landscape.
- The two derelict gatehouses were considered to provide high bat roost potential given the condition of each, though a full Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment would be required to confirm this.
- Neither of the small watercourses which flow through the site are considered suitable for otter, beyond the occasional commute, and both are too overshadowed by the woodland to provide any food plants for water vole. The River Irvine however, may offer more potential for commuting and foraging otter.
- No evidence of badger was identified within this woodland as foraging signs found could not be attributed to badger due to the high number of dog walkers using the area.

Management

- A high number of walkers were present within this site during the survey and the paths are very well worn. As such, recreational pressure on this site is considered to be high. The internal roads of the site are not well-used by vehicles other than for accessing the houses within the site.
- The surrounding agricultural practices may exert some pressure on this site in terms of pollution run-off.

- There is potential for tree planting within the grasslands of this site, however their current use is unconfirmed, and grasslands can be beneficial to wildlife in their own right therefore further survey may be required to confirm this site's potential for tree planting.
- Rhododendron is very widespread within the woodlands and should be removed to promote natural regeneration of the ancient woodland.
- A richer herb layer within the large grasslands of the site may increase their suitability for invertebrates.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

46.502

Total Area (sq m)

465021.56

Central Grid Reference

NS4140SW

Context

Located in the west of East Ayrshire, adjacent to the settlement of Kilmaurs.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

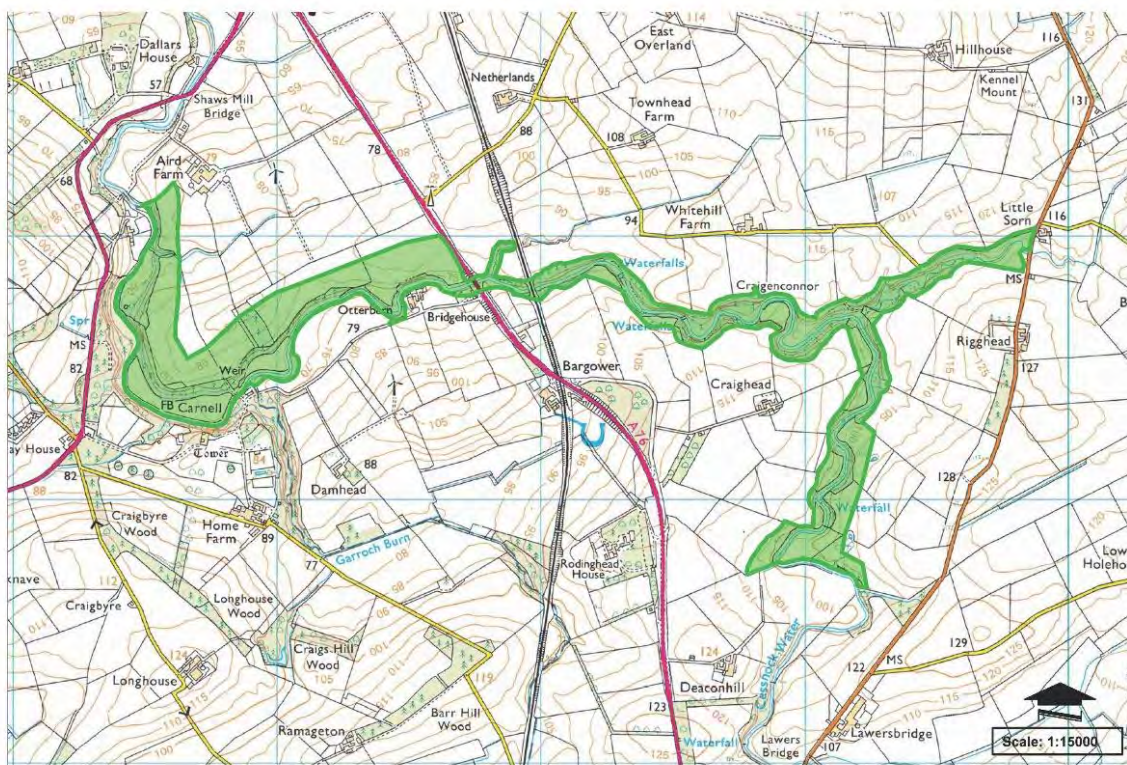
Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- This site comprises agricultural fields, and broadleaf woodland bordering Carmel Water which runs through the site. A railway cuts through the site, and there is residential housing, farms and a church at the north and south.
- Surrounding land uses comprise agricultural land with Kilmarnock, Knockentiber and Kilmaurs are present to the east, south and west. Public roads surround the site including the A735 which cuts through at the north end.

- This site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of terrestrial mammals including two records of bats in 2001, and one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 1537 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes
 - 26 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981),
 - *Mediterranean gull, kingfisher, merlin and barn owl*), two records of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2
 - 418 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *barnacle goose, black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and 226 further records of species which are listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, European skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- The data also records of small heath and common darter.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be required to complete a LNCS assessment, identify any areas suitable for tree planting, or which required management to protect.
- Agricultural fields surrounding this site, and minor roads surrounding this site likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off.
- It is considered from a review of aerial imagery that this site offers some tree planting opportunities within the agricultural fields.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	77.040	Total Area (sq m)	770399.54
Central Grid Reference	NS4732NW		
Context	The site is located in the west of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.7im north of Mauchline.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitats & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main habitat remains semi-natural broadleaf woodland (birch, oak), with the Cessnock Water flowing through the centre of the woodland and site. Species include native and naturalised tree species, as well as a good range of floral and herb species, many of which are indicative of ancient woodland.• Small areas of scattered scrub on neutral grassland are present within the south of the site where gorse is common.			

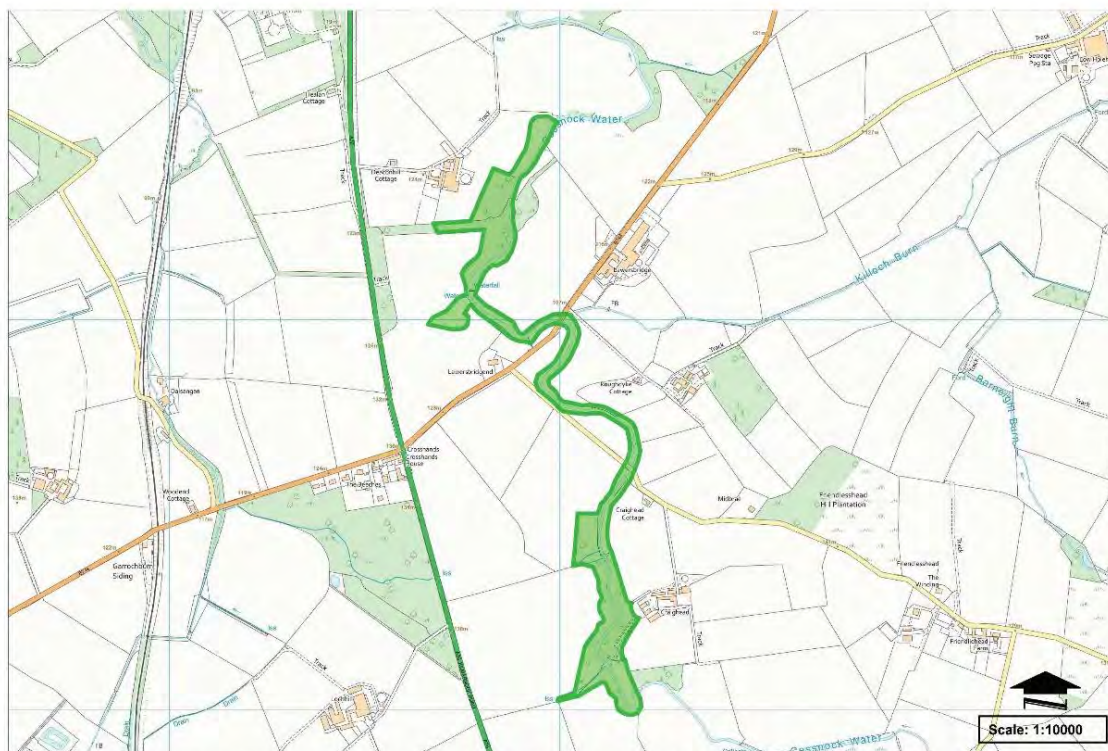
- The site also includes a number of small grasslands including marshy, poor semi-improved and neutral grasslands as well as several areas of improved grassland, particularly in the west.
- The improved grasslands included within the site boundary are generally small in the east, and larger in the west. The digitised site boundary differs significantly from that drawn in the Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council Schedule of listed Wildlife Site book, so the reason for including these improved grasslands is not known.
- A semi-circular neutral grassland in the centre of the site was particularly rich in herbs. The woodland slopes steeply down to this flattened area where the Cessnock Water has carved a bend in the rock, creating a flat grassland on one bank, and a vertical cliff on the other.

Protected Species

- Evidence of birds nesting with the cliff in the centre of the site were identified. The landowner confirmed that peregrine falcon are known to nest in the area, and that jackdaws are also commonly found nesting in the woodland in that same area.
- Several roe deer, including two pairs of mother and young, and one brown hare were seen within the west of the site.
- While no direct evidence of protected species was identified within this site, the woodlands provide ample foraging, commuting and resting habitat for many species such as bats, badger, nesting birds, reptile and amphibians.
- The watercourses and waterbodies within the site offer excellent potential for foraging and commuting otter, and there are very likely resting sites along the
- One grey squirrel, an invasive species, was identified within the woodland in the east of the site, lowering the current suitability of the site for red squirrel (see management suggestions below).

Management

- As the site is so rural and many parts are difficult to access to privately owned, pressures from the surrounding populations of East and South Ayrshire are considered to be minimal. However, as the site is immediately surrounded by agricultural land, and has the A76 road through the centre of the site, the site could be under pressure from pollution and habitat alterations associated from intensive agricultural practices and traffic using this major road.
- Much of the site is well wooded already, therefore opportunities to plant more trees are considered to be limited.
- Given that this site borders a Local Wildlife Site within South Ayrshire, detailed communication is required in relation to any and all management of this site.
- Consideration should be given to communicating with Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (part of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)) regarding grey squirrel control, and Ayrshire Rivers Trust regarding management of the Cessnock Water River and Little Sorn Burn.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	10.979	Total Area (sq m)	109792.76
Central Grid Reference	NS4930SW		
Context	The site is located in the west of East Ayrshire, approximately 2.8 km south of Hurlford.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The predominant habitat of both sections remains semi-natural broadleaf woodland consisting of a variety of native and naturalised broadleaf tree species. In both cases, the surrounding landscape slopes down towards the watercourse which flows through the centre of both sections.			

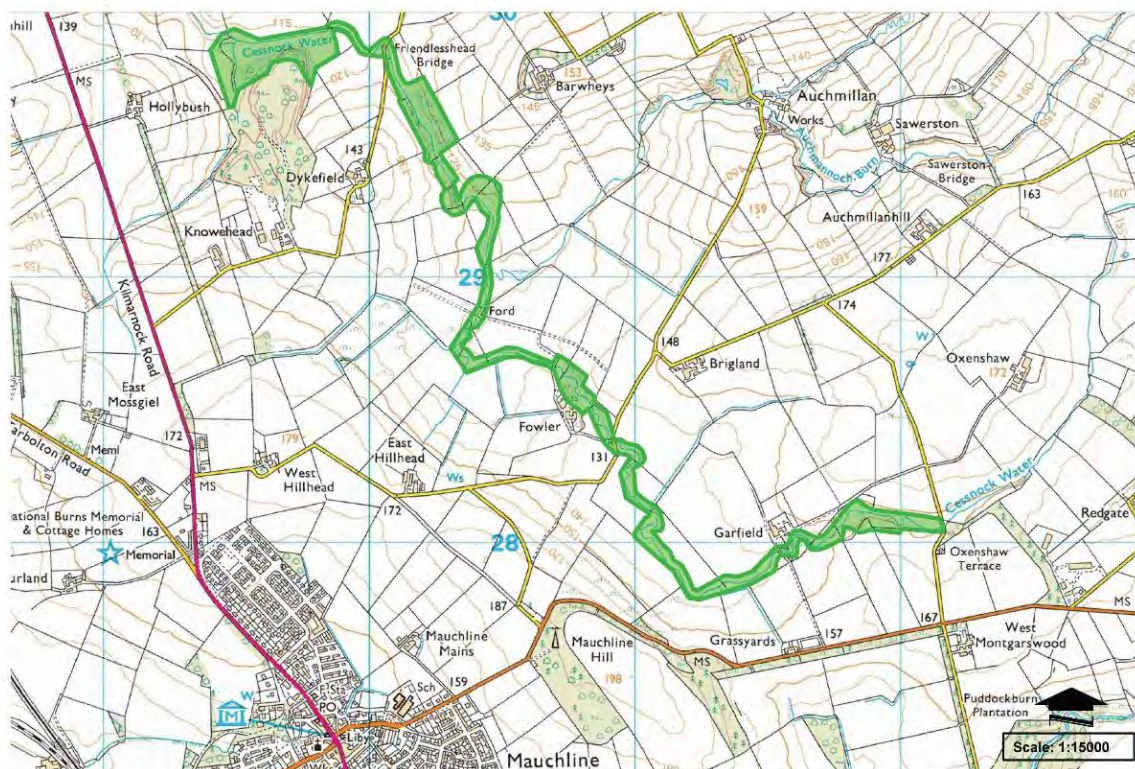
- The western edge of a coniferous plantation woodland encroaches the southern section, but due to a lack of direct access to this section, the ground flora of the broadleaf woodland and remainder of the site could not be confirmed.
- In addition to the woodland, the northern section included small areas of marshy grassland, scrub and a poor semi-improved grassland to the north. Evidence of cows present within the improved grassland field which encroaches the western edge of this site was found within the grasslands of the north of the site.
- Overall, a small area of the northern section overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).
- This also overlaps with a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 7 records of terrestrial mammals within 500m of the site including one record of otter in 1991 and four records of brown hare provided in 2003 and 2005.
- SWSEIC also provided almost 800 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 183 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, tree pipit and yellowhammer
 - and four species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - Eurasian bullfinch, grey partridge, song thrush and tree sparrow
 - There were no records of Schedule 1 or 2 species within 500m of the site.
- There were 18 records of invertebrates including the small heath butterfly and true beetles between 2007 and 2011.

Protected Species

- A grey heron are observed foraging within the watercourse.
- The rocky, gently flowing watercourse was generally considered to offer good foraging and commuting habitat for otter.
- The woodlands also very likely offer potential habitat for a wide range of protected species, though the lack of connectivity particularly to the southern section will likely limit some species such as red squirrel from accessing these areas.

Management

- Both sections of this site are immediately surrounding by farmland, so it is likely under pressures such as pollution from run-off and is known in the north to be under pressure from habitat alterations associated from agricultural practices.
- Much of the site is already covered with woodland, of various ages and species mixes. Tree planting at a small scale could be considered within certain small areas, including the grasslands within the north of the site. However, if the cows were to be excluded, it is likely that if left largely unmanaged, some of these areas would naturally become wooded through natural regeneration.
- Cows should be excluded from the northern section as this would reduce levels of nutrient improvement.



Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	30.085	Total Area (sq m)	300847.20
Central Grid Reference	NS5029NW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 840m north of Mauchline.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main habitat within this site is the watercourse, Cessnock Water. This long, narrow site follows the watercourse through farmland, therefore terrestrial habitats within the site are predominantly arable, improved and poor-semi grassland.• There are two areas of semi-natural broadleaf woodland within the site with species such as ash, beech, willow, oak and sycamore present.• A scrub woodland was visible in the north, though direct access was not possible.			

- This site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of a bat in 2001 and one record of a brown hare in 2019 within 500m of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 620 records of birds within 1km of this site. This included 10 records of barn owl which are listed on Schedule 1, 195 records of birds listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer) and 46 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet and song thrush).
- The data also included 13 records of invertebrates including small heath and true beetles.

Protected Species

- No evidence of protected species was identified within this site. The small, isolated woodlands may provide some habitat for bats, badgers and nesting birds while the farmland provides very limited potential foraging habitat only for species such as badger.

Management

- This site is a narrow watercourse surrounded by and directly downhill from arable and pasture farmland therefore runoff pollution from farming practices is likely high.
- There may be limited opportunities for tree planting within this site to create a barrier between the fields and the watercourse.
- Due to how the boundary of this site has been drawn historically, several partial fields are included within this site. Land owners should therefore be made aware of the presence of this LNCS, and suitable efforts should be made to protect the watercourse and immediately surrounding land.
- This site sits on the border of East and North Ayrshire, therefore communication between councils would aid management and protection of this site.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	34.923	Total Area (sq m)	349228.74
Central Grid Reference	NS5225NW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 20 m east of Sorn.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The western section of the site was found to have undergone deforestation in the north of the section in the past, resulting in that area now having a mix of scrub and tall ruderal habitats. The southern area of this section remains a broadleaf semi-natural woodland with species such as beech, ash, holly, sycamore, rowan, horse chestnut and Scots pine present, and ground flora including greater woodrush, dogs Mercury, male fern and honeysuckle which can be indicative of ancient woodland.			

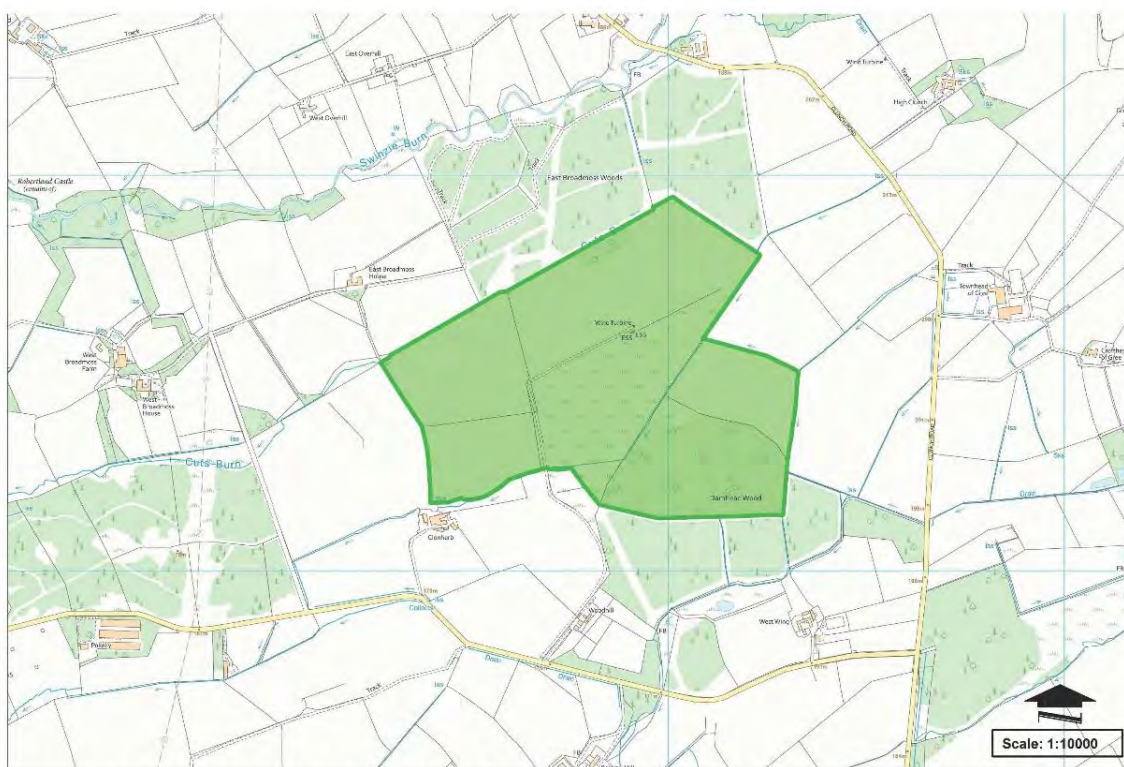
- However, large stands of rhododendron within the southern area prevented direct access to much of this woodland.
- The western section also had an area of Sitka spruce coniferous plantation in the east and Blindburn joins the Cleuch Burn within this site.
- The eastern section predominantly comprised of broadleaf semi-natural woodland with tree species such as hawthorn, ash, willow, beech, Scots pine, birch, rowan. The ground flora included bramble, nettles, cleavers, creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, cocks foot, broadleaf dock, butterbur, soft rush, crested dogs tail, greater stitchwort, male fern, field rose and mouse ear chickweed.
- The grasslands within the eastern section included a marshy grassland with soft rush, common reed, marsh thistle, bramble and rosebay willowherb, a neutral grassland in the east dominated by Yorkshire fog, and a poor semi-improved grassland at the far east.
- Both waterbodies were well shaded by trees, with pond weed and common reed present within the waterbody.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, and the site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of terrestrial mammals including one record of bats in 1999 and two records of otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 68 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included ten records of birds listed on Schedule 1 (red kite and barn), nine records of birds listed on the SBL (herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, swift and woodcock) and a further four records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (Eurasian bullfinch, song thrush and spotted flycatcher).

Protected Species

- An old bridge structure with the eastern section and the broadleaf woodland in both sections likely provide good bat roost potential while all habitats within the site offer potential for foraging and commuting bats.
- Cleuch Burn is considered suitable for commuting, foraging and resting otter, particularly within the western section where the watercourse is protected by a deep, wooded and secluded gorge.
- Evidence of squirrel (foraging remains at a small feeding station) was present within the south of the western section and given the tree species and knowledge of the wider area this is considered to be evidence of red squirrel.

Management

- The eastern section this site is under a small amount of pressure from recreational use by the local population for activities such as dog walking and fishing. The minor road and surrounding agricultural practices may apply pollution pressures from run-off.
- Without monitoring and management it is considered possible that further deforestation could occur within the western section.
- Tree felling has occurred within the site, as has planting of commercial forestry. Tree planting could be considered within the north of the western section, but it is considered likely that if left, the scrub will become woodland again, while the tall ruderal habitats will also become scrub then woodland naturally over time.
- Rhododendron should be removed from the western section as best it can be, considering the gorge will prevent access to remove all of it.


Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

54.649

Total Area (sq m)

546493.40

Central Grid Reference

NS4546SE

Context

The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 2km north of Fenwick.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

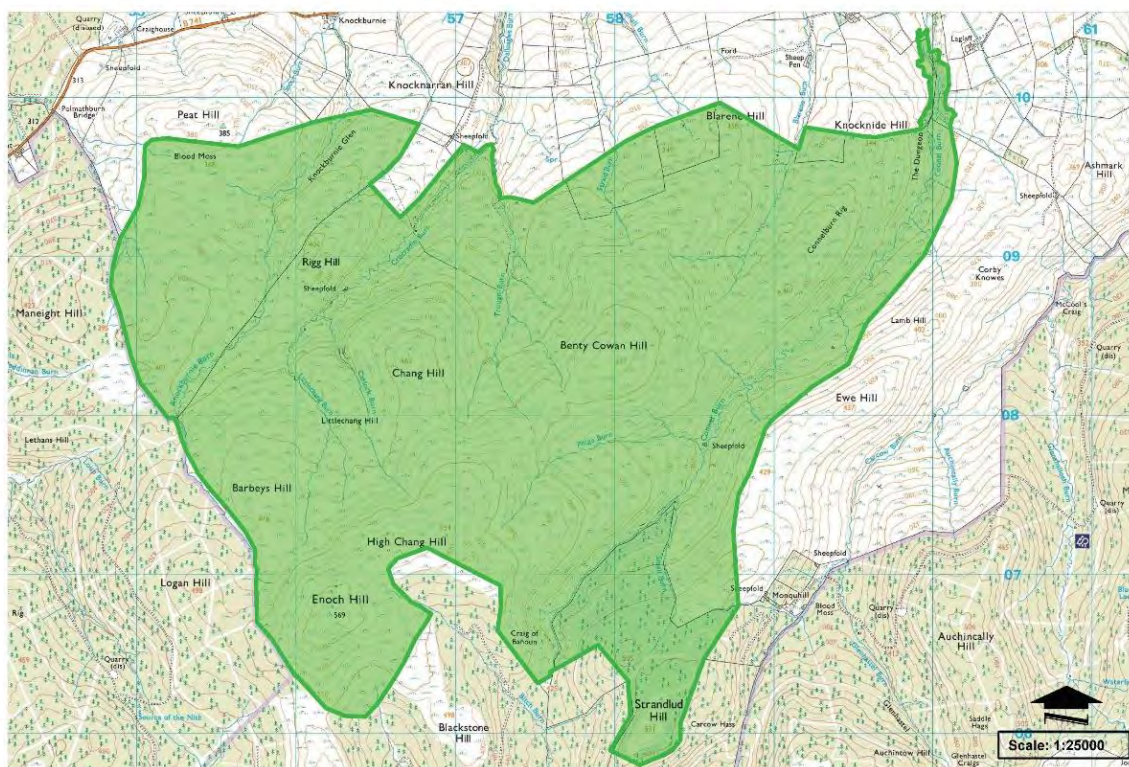
Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- This site comprises agricultural fields with conifer woodland to the south.
- Surrounding land uses comprise scattered residential houses, conifer plantations and agricultural land. Public roads border the south and east of the site. Robertland & Swinzie Burn LNCS (Site 57, page 204) is 500m to the north.

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified four records of terrestrial mammals including two records of bats in 1998 and 2017, and two records of hedgehog in 2017 and 2019 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 284 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included three records of species listed on Schedule 1 (merlin and barn owl), 78 records of birds listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, merlin, swift, barn owl and yellowhammer) and 34 further records of species which are listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, European skylark, lesser white-throat, linnet song thrush and spotted flycatcher).

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be required to complete a LNCS assessment, identify any areas suitable for tree planting.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms, and pollution from the minor roads.



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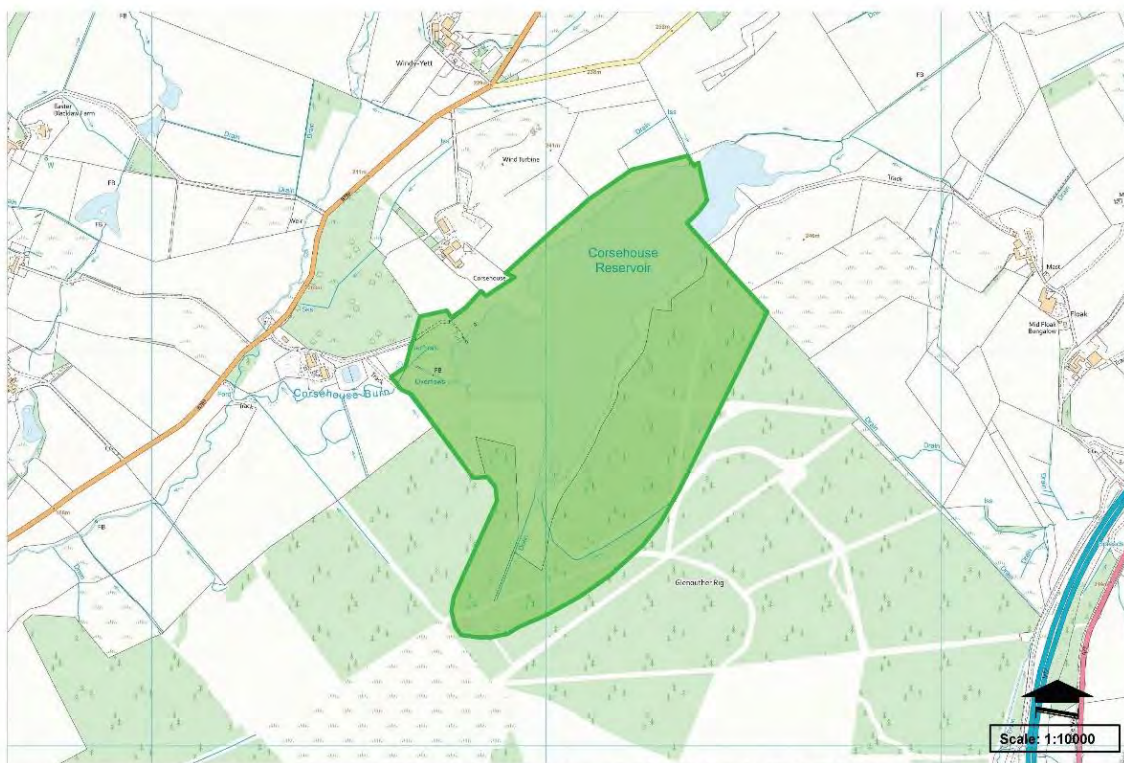
Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	1325.420	Total Area (sq m)	13254201.34
Central Grid Reference	NS5708SW		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 1km south of Burnside.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site comprises of large, open areas of heathland, blanket bog and marshy grassland. An area of conifer plantation is in the south of the site, with a small parcel of semi-natural broadleaved woodland located on the north-east boundary of the site. Connel Burn and Dalleagles Burn run south to north of the site.Surrounding land use primarily comprises of commercial forestry and agricultural practices (sheep and cattle grazing). Dalleagles Woodland LNCS (Site 94, page 84) it to the north. Glen			

Afton LNCS (Site 55, page 118) and Afton Uplands LNCS (Site 49, page 12) is to the east. B741 main road runs along the north boundary.

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified two records of otter in 1991, one record of red squirrel in 2017 and one record of hedgehog in 2017 within 1km of the site. There were also 28 records of Myotis bats, 2 records of brown long-eared bat, 136 common pipistrelle, 32 soprano pipistrelle, 14 pipistrelle species, 10 Nyctalus bats, 1 noctule and 3 Leisler's bats from 2011 – 2016.
- SWSEIC also provided 421 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 23 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - red crossbill and barn owl)
 - 103 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, wood warbler and woodcock
 - 45 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow
- The data also included records of invertebrates of small heath and common darter.

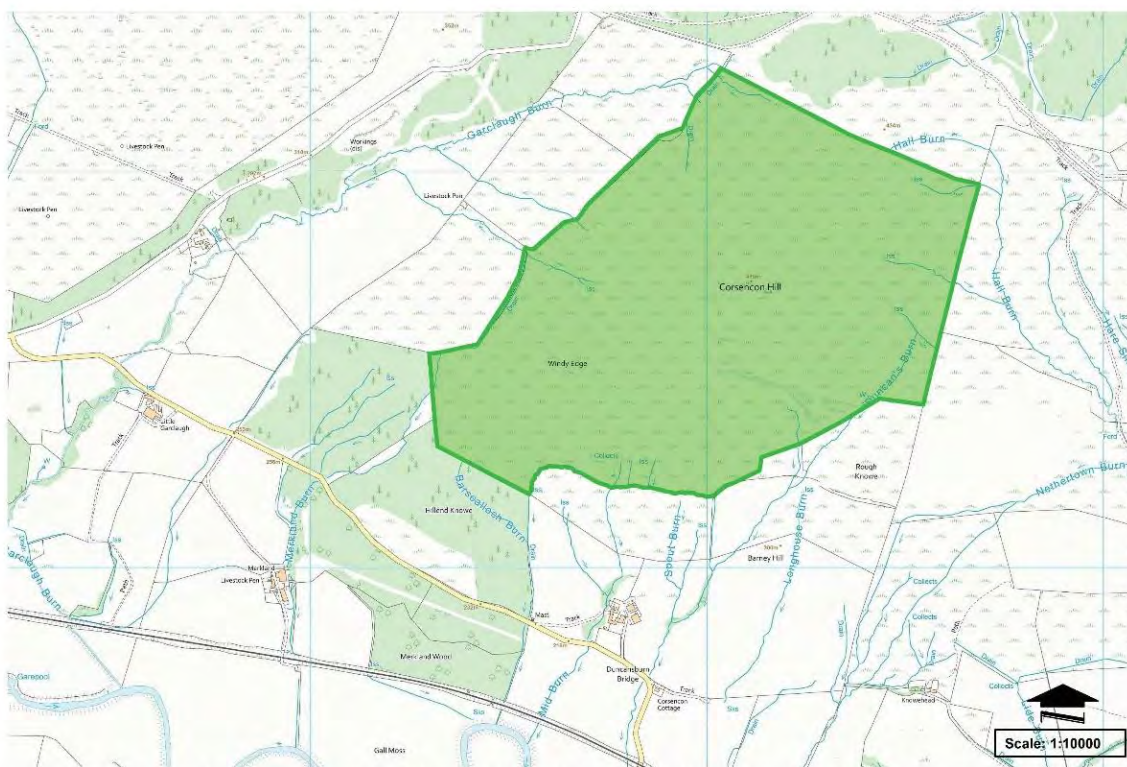
Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas suitable which might require management action.
- Some pressures from the surrounding agricultural fields may be exerted on this site in the form of grazing and pollution run-off but without a survey, this could not be confirmed.
- A survey of the site would be required to assess this site's potential for tree planting.
- Cognisance of the value of the LNCS should be noted and integrated into any subsequent development proposals (including those relating to renewables) which may arise on site and mitigate any potentially significant negative impacts.
- Ensure that the requirements of the relevant and applicable LDP2 policies are met and addressed through design, layout and scale.



Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	62.905	Total Area (sq m)	629053.59
Central Grid Reference	NS4849NW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, 5km north of Fenwick.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site comprises one reservoir, with open grassland to the north, and forestry surrounding the southern boundary. Corsehouse Burn runs into the reservoir, and a minor road runs adjacent to the north. Surrounding land uses comprise agricultural land and residential dwellings to the north and forestry to the south border of the site. Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of an otter in 1991 within 500m of the site. SWSEIC also provided 330 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes: 		

- 7 records of species listed on Schedule 1 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
 - *green sandpiper, long-tailed duck, merlin, ruff, scaup and barn owl*
- 83 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard and yellowhammer*
- and 26 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, lesser whitethroat, linnet and song thrush*



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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	92.039	Total Area (sq m)	920391.57
Central Grid Reference	NS6614NE		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 3 km east of New Cumnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises of large, open areas of heathland and bog. The lower lying section has forestry plantation to the southwest.Surrounding land comprises agricultural farmland, forestry plantation, minor roads, and residential buildings. Merkland Wood LNCS is present to the south of the site			

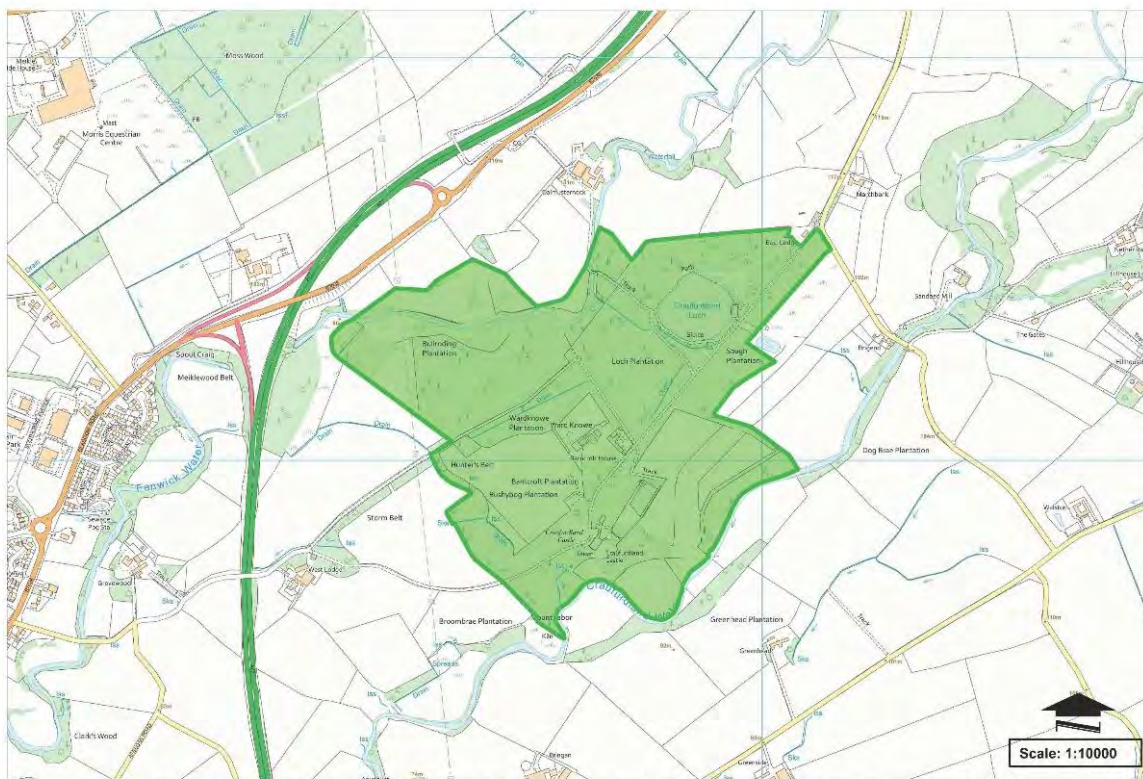
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified four records of Myotis bat, one record of Chiroptera bat, one record of whiskered bat, six records of brown long-eared bat, six natterer's bats and five Daubenton's bats from 1989 – 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 59 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 3 records of listed on Schedule 1
 - *hen harrier and red crossbill*
 - 5 records of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2
 - 21 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll and tree pipit*
 - and a further 6 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, spotted flycatcher and song thrush*

Protected Species

- Protected species likely occurring either within or in close proximity to site

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas might require management action.



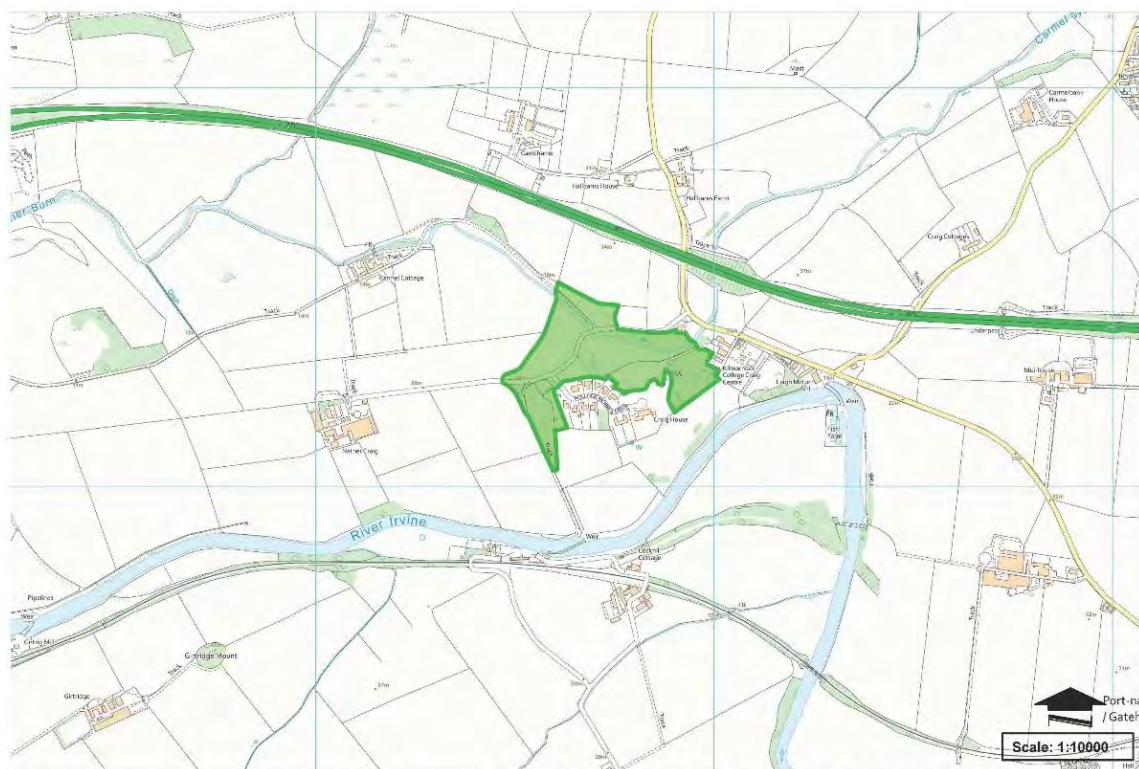
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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	70.096	Total Area (sq m)	700955.67
Central Grid Reference	NS4541SE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 200m north of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site comprises a mixture of managed grasslands, scrub and scattered trees within Craufurdland Estate. The Fenwick Water flows through the north of the site and Craufurdland Water is to the east of the site. There is a fishery to the north and Barncroft House in the centre. There are conifer and broadleaf forests and woodlands, with scattered residential houses.			

- Surrounding land use is predominantly fields, with B7038 and A77 road to the west border of the site and Kilmarnock to the south.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified two records of soprano pipistrelle bats in 2005 – 2006, and two records of otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 422 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 3 records of birds listed on Schedule 1
 - *barn owl and merlin*
 - 114 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, swift and yellowhammer*
 - a further 33 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- Data also included one record of common toad.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- The estate is known to be a popular visitor attraction and is currently growing the range of outdoor experiences it offers. An increase in footfall and events may result in disturbance to habitats and resident faunal species.
- A survey of the site would be required to assess this site's potential for tree planting.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

9.104

Total Area (sq m)

91041.73

Central Grid Reference

NS3737SE

Context

The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 1km west of Crosshouse.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

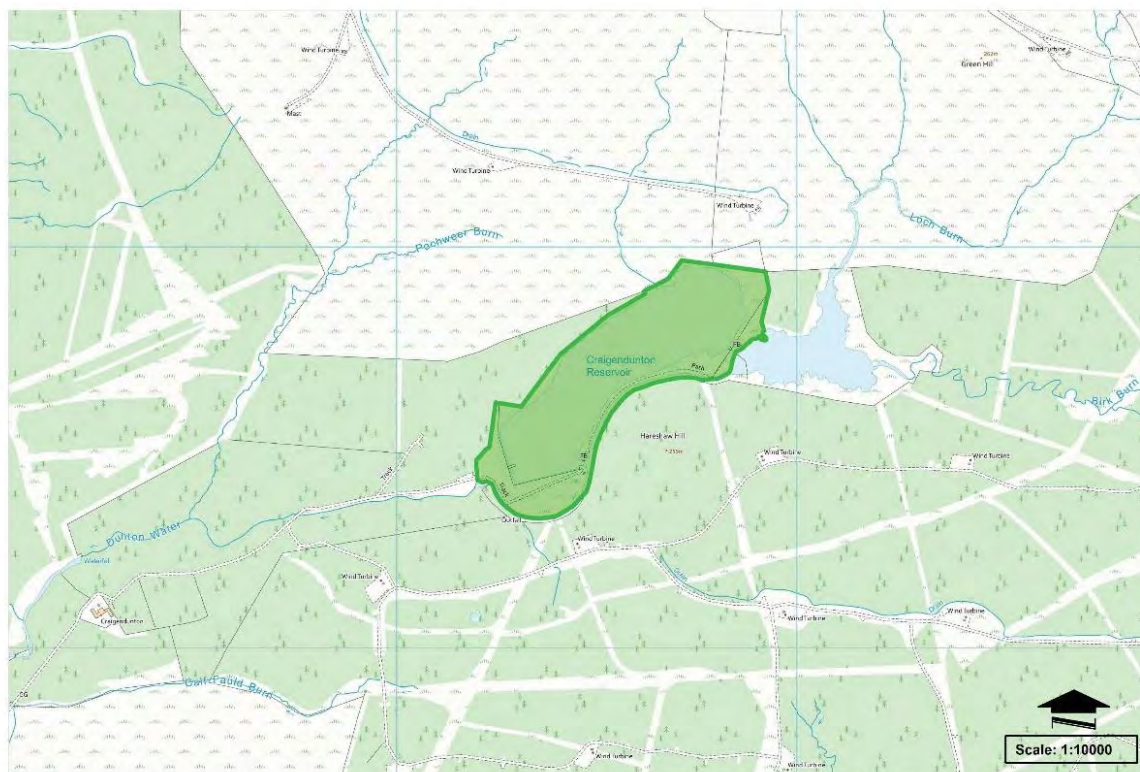
Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- The site is wooded in the centre, with several residential houses and garden in the centre and east. Within the site and surrounding the houses and woodlands are agricultural grasslands. The Carmel Water also flows through the north of this site, but does not join the River Irvine until further west, outside of this site and East Ayrshire.

- The River Irvine borders the southeast of the site while the wider landscape is largely agricultural fields and minor roads. A farm steading is located immediately northeast of the site. This LNCS borders North Ayrshire.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however this site was not selected for a site survey.
- SWSEIC provided 258 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - two records birds listed on Schedule 1
 - *Fieldfare and barn owl*
 - two records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 70 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *Black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, swift, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and a further 36 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *Common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and tree sparrow*

Management

- Current development plans for the site are unknown, but given the development within the site to date, this site is therefore considered to be under development pressure, and recreational pressure from humans living and working within it.
- Tree planting could be considered within the grasslands within this site, for example to link the woodland within the centre of the site to the line of trees bordering the River Irvine. However, a survey of the grassland would be required prior to any tree planting as grasslands can offer biodiversity benefits in their own right.
- Further development within this LNCS should be avoided.
- Consultation with North Ayrshire should be considered given that the Carmell Water flows through this LNCS and into Garrier Burn in North Ayrshire where that watercourse forms a small part of a North Ayrshire LNCS.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Wetlands

Total Area (ha)

19.334

Total Area (sq m)

193335.69

Central Grid Reference

NS5245NE

Context

The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, over 3km north-east of Waterside.

Interest

Habitat & ornithological interest

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- This site comprises one reservoir, with forestry areas surrounding the reservoir in various stages of planting or felled woodland and Whitelee Windfarm to the south. Dunton Water runs across the site, and a minor road exist to the north and south for access to the windfarm.
- Surrounding land uses comprise forestry and Whitelee Windfarm and a single residential dwelling on the north border of the site.

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of an otter in 1991 within 500m of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 94 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 4 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *fieldfare and red crossbill*
 - 1 record of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2
 - 22 records listed on the SBL
 - *curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel and lapwing*
 - 13 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, linnet and song thrush.*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.



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Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

136.261

Total Area (sq m)

1362610.56

Central Grid Reference	NS4703SE
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, immediately west of Bellsbank.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<p><u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site is largely wooded and is surrounded by Bellsbank to the north and predominantly upland habitats in all other directions. A small area on the east borders plantation forestry. • A large portion of the site contains woodland identified on the Ancient Woodland Inventory • The site falls within a B-Line. • There are two main habitat types within this site; woodland and grassland, along with the River Doon which flows from north to south through the site into Loch Doon. • The woodlands within the north of the site are generally wetter, while the woodlands in Ness Glen in the south of the site generally drier. • Species in the various woodlands include a mix of native species of tree such as silver birch, willow, hawthorn, ash, oak, sycamore, beech, alder, lime, Scots pine, larch and rowan. In the wetter areas, water-tolerant tree species such as willow and alder and understory species such as soft rush and horsetail are more common. The understory generally comprises a mix of species such as greater wood rush, pignut, creeping buttercup, cock's foot, dog's mercury, bugle, pendulous sedge, creeping soft grass, bluebell, wood sorrel, nettles, wild garlic and red campion. • Bracken is common in small, open areas within the south of the site, and in the southwest of the site the habitats are a mosaic of dry heath, acid grassland and mixed woodland, either planted or semi-natural. Species in this area include silver birch, Sitka spruce, willow, ash, rowan, oak, ling heather, tormentil, heath bedstraw, foxglove, bracken, fern, raspberry, tufted hair grass, sweet vernal, Yorkshire fog, and wavy hair grass. • There are several grasslands within the site, generally improved, poor semi-improved and marshy grasslands, some of them used as horse paddocks or for grazing cattle. • Other, smaller habitats present include a small waterbody in the centre of the site, a swamp in the north and a dry, modified bog with scattered bracken in the southeast. • Small stands of conifer plantation are present within the centre of the site. There are also a number of residential properties within the site. • Rhododendron is present in various parts of the site. • Data provided by SWSEIC identified 17 records of terrestrial mammal within 1 km of the site, including six records of bats between 1999 and 2016, four records of otter in 1991 and 2019, six records of red squirrel between 2004 and 2018 and one record of a hedgehog in 2015. • The data also included one record of an adder in 2017, one record of Atlantic salmon in 2019, and nine records of notable invertebrates including the common darter, large heath butterfly, Sharp's parallel diver and caddis fly between 2005 and 2018. • SWSEIC also provided over 1500 records of birds within 1km of this site. 	

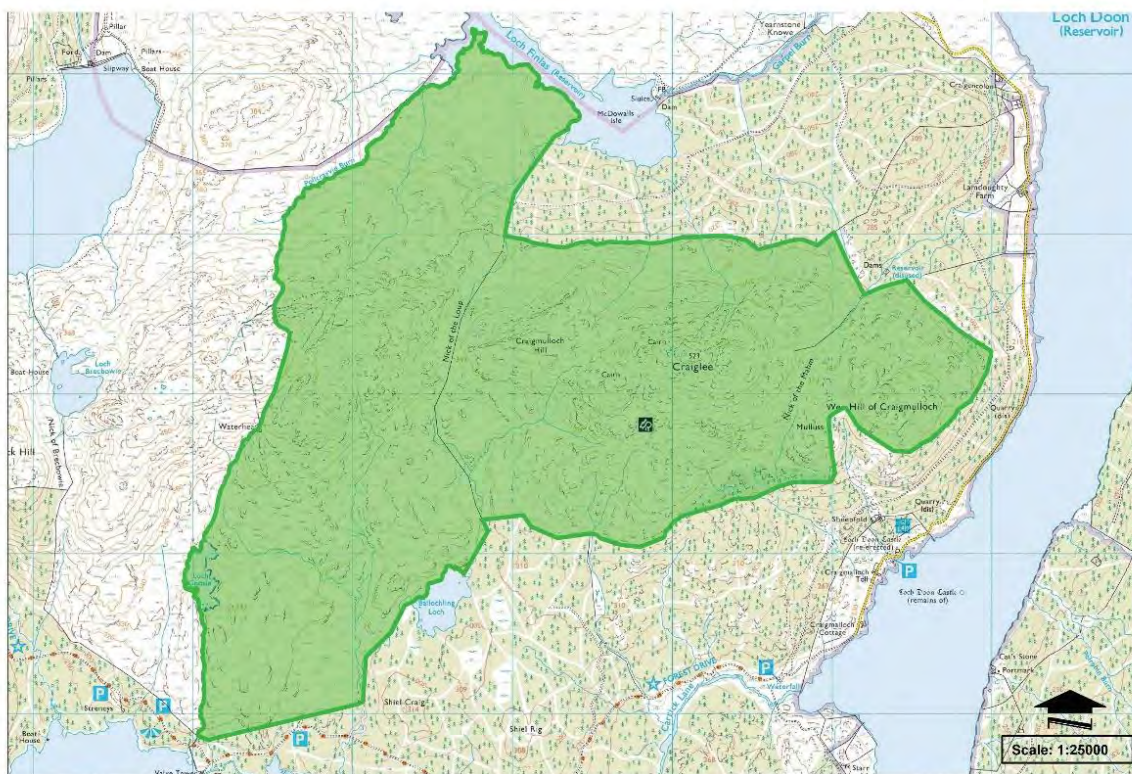
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Schedule 1 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981), Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) species and Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species within 500m of site. This included:
 - 72 records of Schedule 1 birds (14 species: brambling, Eurasian bittern, fieldfare, hen harrier, kingfisher, long-tailed duck, merlin, peregrine, quail, red crossbill, red kite, barn owl, osprey and whooper swan);
 - 26 records Schedule 2 birds (greylag good and goldeneye);
 - 393 records of birds listed on the SBL (17 species: black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, less redpoll, pochard, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, wood warblers and woodcock), of which 177 records relate to six species listed on the Ayrshire BAP including common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher.

Protected Species

- While no direct evidence of protected species was identified within this site, the woodlands provide ample foraging, commuting and resting habitat for many species such as bats, badger, red squirrel, pine marten, nesting birds, reptile and amphibians.
- The watercourses and waterbodies within the site offer excellent potential for foraging and commuting otter, and there are very likely resting sites along the River Doon which flows through the site, as well as its tributaries such as the Gaw Glen Burn.

Management

- Increases in housing may increase the recreational pressures applied to the site.
- The site has limited potential for tree planting as much of the site is already covered by woodland, of various ages and a mix of species.
- Tree planting at a small scale could be considered within certain small areas, including the recently felled conifer plantation or improved grasslands within the centre of the site. However, it is likely that if left largely unmanaged, some of these areas would naturally become wooded through natural regeneration, particularly if large stands of rhododendron are removed.
- Rhododendron is present throughout much of the site, often in large and dense stands. As an invasive species, rhododendron should be removed.
- Bracken is dense in places, so some bracken control may be beneficial, to prevent it becoming more widespread as it can have invasive properties.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	986.206	Total Area (sq m)	9862062.87
Central Grid Reference	NX4696SW		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 6km south of Bellsbank.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitats on Site are dominated by wet dwarf shrub heath and acid grassland mosaics. Species included; heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>, sheep fescue <i>Festuca ovina</i>, purple moor grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i>, bog asphodel <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>, sweet vernal <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> and tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i>.			

- To the east, west and centre of the Site there are areas of wet modified bog characterised by *Molinia*. Other species include hares tail cotton grass, *Eriophorum vaginatum*, deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum*, and carnation sedge *Carex panicea*.
- Various areas of marshy grassland are present throughout the Site and the periphery of the Site is bordered by coniferous plantation woodland.
- This site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991, 22 records of red squirrel from 2002 - 2017, 2 records of mountain hare in 2006 and one record of brown hare within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 531 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes
 - 27 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (black-throated loon, hen harrier, merlin, red crossbill, red kite, redwing, barn owl and whooper swan),
 - 17 record of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2, 89 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - Blackheaded gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, swift, tree pipit, wood warbler and woodcock
 - and 57 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - black grouse, common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher.
- The data also included one record of common frog, one record of adder and one record of common lizard and records of invertebrates including common darter, large heath, small heath, small pearl-bordered fritillary and true beetle.

Protected Species

- Western osprey *Pandion haliaetus* are breeding in the vicinity of the Site, within approximately 2km, at Loch Doon. Heathland and grassland habitats provide suitable hunting territory for osprey.
- All habitats on Site provide suitable habitat for an assemblage of invertebrate species, including dragonflies, stoneflies, mayflies, beetles and butterflies.
- Habitats on Site are potentially suitable to support commuting, foraging and sheltering; bats, badger, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, ground nesting and passerine birds.

Management

- Tree planting is not recommended due to the extensive plantation surrounding the site.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	10.523	Total Area (sq m)	105232.51
Central Grid Reference	NS4830SW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.9km north of Mauchline.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitats include a plantation woodland of beech and silver birch, surrounded by a dense beech hedge south of the farm access road, and a dense scrub grading to semi-natural broadleaf woodland surrounded by another dense beech hedge north of the farm access road. Species north of the farm access road included willow, beech, birch, gorse and hawthorn, but direct access to this site could not be taken due to the dense hedge and dense			

nature of the scrub and broadleaf habitat within. The very north of the western section also includes two relatively new-built properties and a narrow strip of neutral grassland dominated by Yorkshire fog and tufted hair grass, broadleaf dock, creeping buttercup, vetch and creeping thistle.

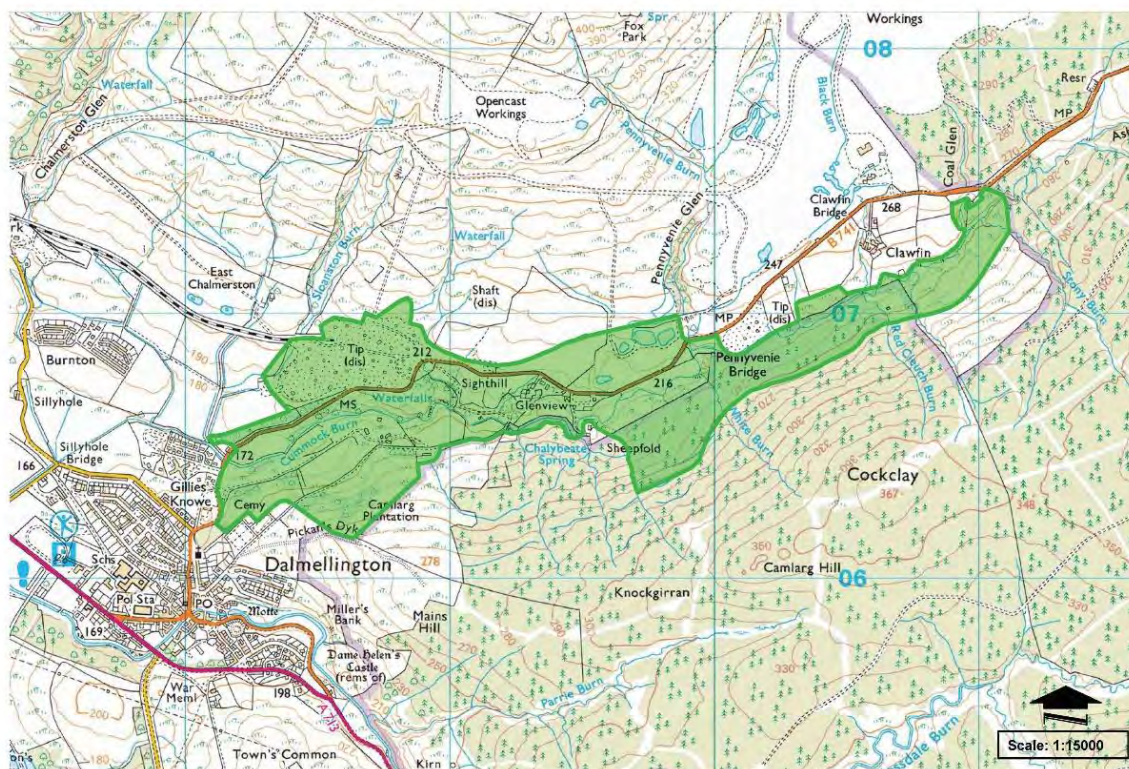
- This site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991, and four records of brown hare in 2003 and 2005 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 1200 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - five records of barn owl which are listed on Schedule 1
 - one record of a greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 324 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, tree pipit and yellowhammer*
 - and 89 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet and song thrush*
- The data also included ten records of invertebrates including small heath and true beetles.

Protected Species

- No evidence of protected species was identified, however with both sites providing dense cover, they could offer shelter to a range of protected species including bats, badger, nesting birds and reptiles.

Management

- Avoid further loss to site by way of development pressure eroding site extents and habitat
- Tree planting not suitable
- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Composite

Total Area (ha)

114.442

Total Area (sq m)

1144422.82

Central Grid Reference

NS4906NE

Context

The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, immediately east of Dalmellington.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- The grasslands in the west of the site, south of the B741 are a mosaic of improved, poor semi-improved and marshy grasslands, some of which contain scattered scrub or broadleaf trees. Much of the land in this area is grazed by sheep therefore species indicative of improvement are widespread. Tree species present in these grasslands include beech, oak, silver birch and horse chestnut, however large areas of rhododendron are also present.

- The woodland north of the site included a mix of tree species such as oak, beech, horse chestnut, silver birch, hawthorn, Scots pine, sycamore, rowan, willow, and an understory of cocks foot, bluebell, raspberry, greater stitchwort, vetch, wood rush, tufted hair grass, broom, dog's Mercury and raspberry. Direct access to this woodland was not taken due to health and safety concerning the slag.
- The watercourse which flows east to west through the site was typically 2m wide and 30cm deep. Banks where visible were generally steep or vertical and sandy.
- Within the centre of the site the watercourse was bordered by neutral grasslands, and new mixed and coniferous woodland plantations within the east of the site.
- This site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 14 records of bats between 1999 and 2014, two records of otter in 199, five records of red squirrel between 2013 and 2016 and two records of brown hare in 2019 and 2020 within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 514 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 25 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *fieldfare, kingfisher, merlin, peregrine, quail, red crossbill, red kite and barn owl*
 - nine record of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 146 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, wood warbler and woodcock*
 - 47 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher*
- The data also included one record of common frog, on record of common lizard and six records of invertebrates including dingy skipper, small heath and small pearl-bordered fritillary.

Protected Species

- The watercourse provides suitable habitat for commuting and foraging otter, as well as other species such as bats, fish, invertebrates. The watercourse is also considered suitable habitat for a range of bird species, though poaching by livestock may reduce utilisation by a number of species.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the eastern section of the site is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Grazing by livestock and run-off pollution from the B741 and agricultural practices are the main pressures within this site. Grazing pressure should be reviewed if parts of this site is selected for tree planting.
- There may be some potential for tree planting within the grasslands and areas of existing scattered trees, though as these are currently grazed, grazing pressure would have to be reviewed.
- Rhododendron should be removed.
- Cognisance of the value of the LNCS should be noted and integrated into any subsequent development proposals (including those relating to renewables) and incorporate appropriate mitigation to reduce potentially significant negative impacts.
- Ensure that the requirements of the relevant and applicable LDP2 policies are met and addressed through design, layout and scale.



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Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

6.466

Total Area (sq m)

64655.33

Central Grid Reference

NS4533SE (Approximately 2.6km south of Hurlford)

Interest

Habitat – Botanical & ornithological interest

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- This site is predominantly broadleaf semi-natural woodland. Species of trees which could be identified from a distance included beech, ash and hawthorn.
- Improved grasslands appear to be heavily grazed.
- Surrounding land uses comprise improved grassland fields and coniferous woodland plantations.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)
- The site overlaps with a B-Line.

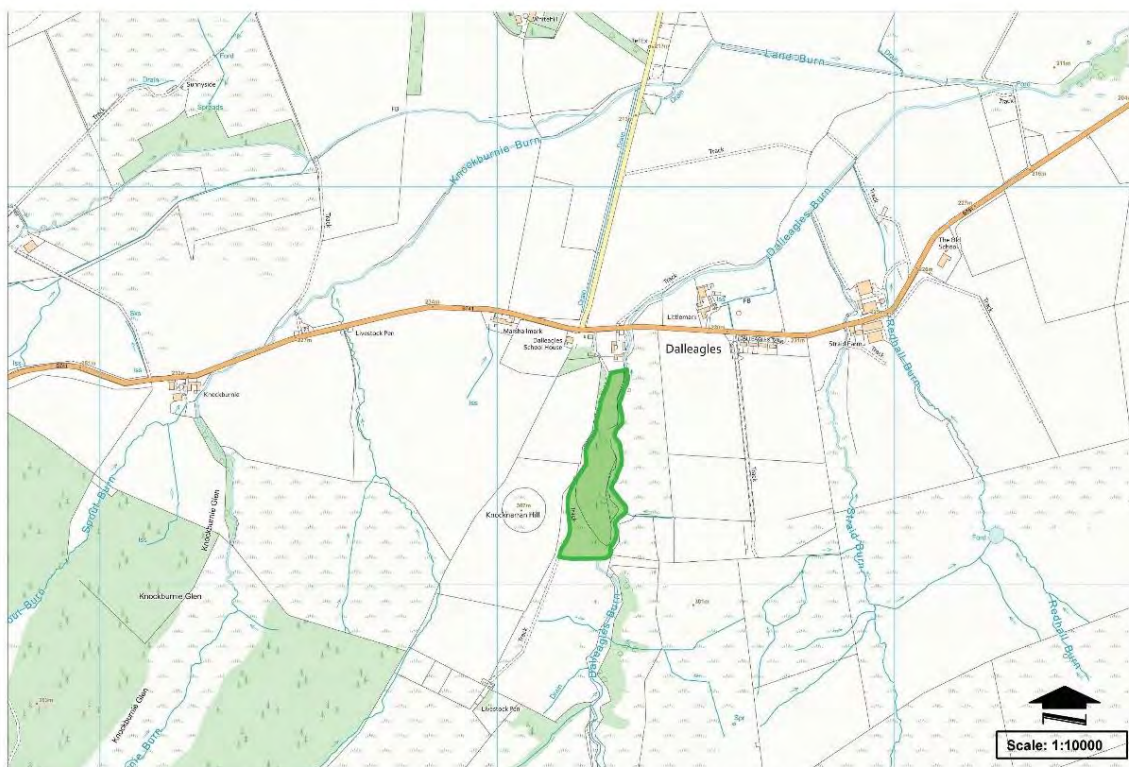
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 11 records of terrestrial mammals including one record of an otter in 1991 and ten records of brown hare between 1998 and 2005, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 701 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 170 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit and yellowhammer*
 - and 38 further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*
- Unusual flora and a diversity of breeding birds

Protected Species

- The woodland area within this site likely provides suitable habitat for a range of protected species. Due to the access limitations found during the survey of this site, no evidence of protected species was identified, however the woodland is considered suitable for bats, badger, nesting birds and potentially reptiles within the more open woodland in the east of the site.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.
- The main pressure this site is facing will relate to run-off pollution from surrounding intensive farming practices.
- The woodland should be protected from intrusion by livestock using fencing, but that fencing should not disrupt movement of wild animals as far as possible.
- Potential for tree planning within the LNCS boundary is limited given that the majority of the site is already wooded. Some tree planting could be considered within the fields which are included within the existing boundary, else these could be removed from within the boundary.



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Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

4.211

Total Area (sq m)

42108.85

Central Grid Reference

NS7510SW

Context

The site is located within the south-east of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.4km south-west of Burnside.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

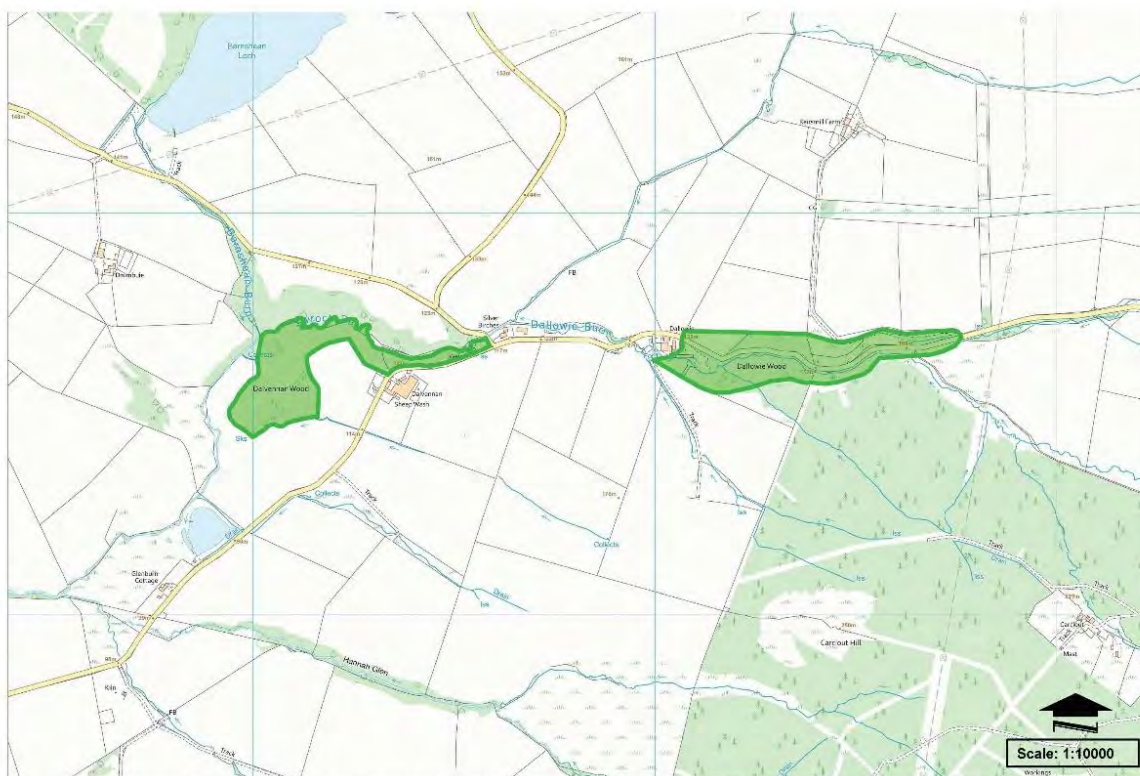
Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- This site is comprised predominantly of woodland, with some scrub and grassland within the very south of the site. Dalleagles Burn flows north through the woodland. Surrounding land use appears to be largely agricultural, with residential houses to the north.
- The watercourse which flows through this LNCS originates in Connel Burn / Benty Cowan LNCS (Site 51, page 61) which lies approximately 500m south.

- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however this site was not selected for a site survey.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991 and one record of red squirrel within 500m of this site, dated 2017.
- SWSEIC also provided 111 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included five records of birds listed on Schedule 1 (red crossbill and barn owl), 28 records of birds listed on the SBL (cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, kestrel, lapwing, tree pipit and wood warbler) and a further 18 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow).

Management

- An extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended to identify key areas which require management action.
- Runoff from agriculture remains a potential pressure to this site.
- Encroachment from residential houses and gardens, as well as the surrounding agriculture may also put pressure on the site.
- Tree planting opportunities within this LNCS are not considered to be likely.



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Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

5.775

Total Area (sq m)

57745.66

Central Grid Reference

NS3810NW

Context

The site is located in the south-west of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.2km west of Patna.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- The site is predominantly mixed woodland and semi-natural broadleaved woodland and is intersected by the A713.
- The western section comprises an area of mixed woodland characterised by alder, ash, beech, birch, fir species, hawthorn, hazel, sitka spruce and sycamore. An area of hardstanding used for parking was present to the far east of the site. Due to the presence of livestock on site the ground flora could not be assessed.

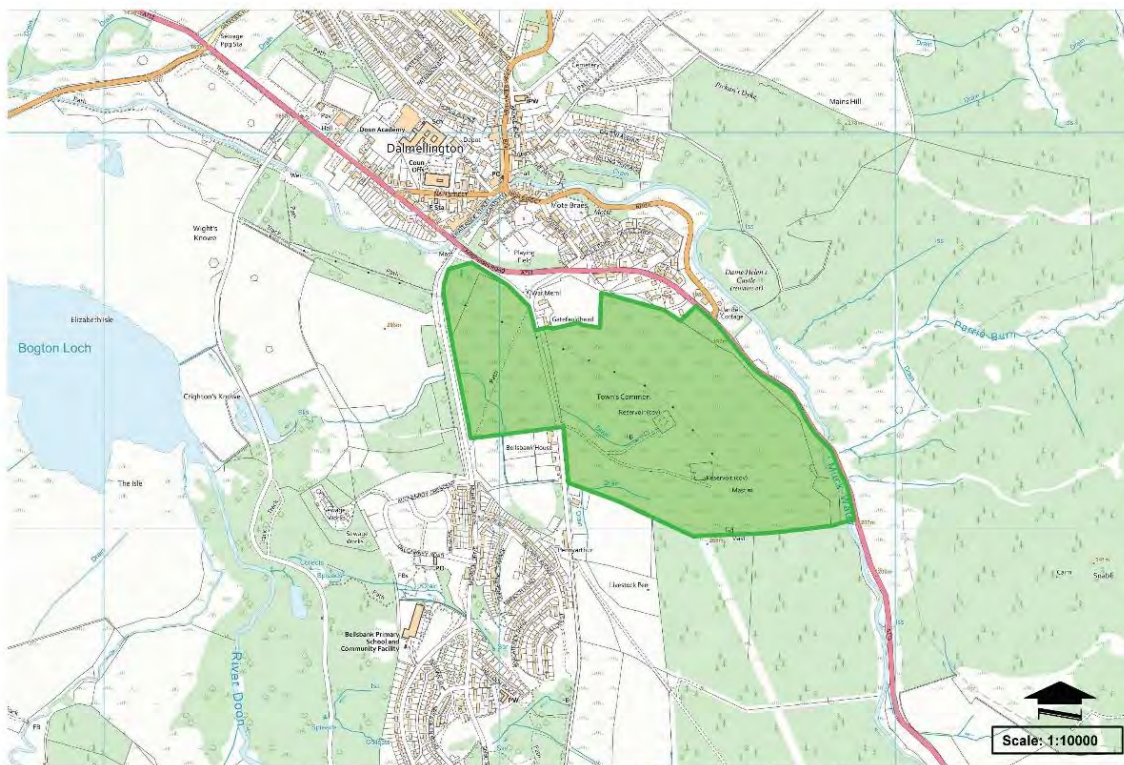
- The eastern section was dominated by semi-natural broadleaved woodland, characterised by a range of native species, including alder, birch, hawthorn, sycamore and young oak. The ground flora comprised of blackthorn, bramble, cocks-foot, common bent, common dandelion, creeping buttercup, hedge nettle, lady's fern, meadowsweet and woodland horsetail. Other small areas of habitat exist within the eastern section, including mixed woodland and improved grassland to the west, poor semi-improved grassland to the northeast and southeast, and a mosaic of poor semi-improved grassland and marshy grassland to southeast.
- Over 50 % (56%) of the site overlaps with the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), and it lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of an otter within 500m of the site, recorded in 1991, and 434 records of birds within 500m of the site, recorded since 1985. Notably, this included two records of barn owl, a Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Schedule 1 protected species, within 500m dated 2005 and "2006-2011", five records of Greylag Goose, a Schedule 2 protected species dated between 1986 and 1999, and 21 species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) (of which seven are listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan). However, none of the records provided were listed as nesting within the site.
- An area of restricted access was also present to the west of the eastern section. This was surveyed from the periphery and comprised of hardstanding and agricultural sheds.
- One watercourse, Dallowie Burn, is present within the site and runs through the centre of the western section. The Dyrock burn runs parallel to the eastern section of the site to the north and west.

Protected Species

- Dallowie Burn may offer limited potential commuting and foraging habitat for otter. A deceased otter was identified at the roadside within the western section of the site at National Grid reference NS 39714 10685, indicating that the site is still utilised by otter.
- The site may offer some potential to commuting, foraging and roosting bats given the variety of trees present. Agricultural sheds may also provide suitable roosting habitat for bats.
- The site is not considered to provide suitable habitat for nesting geese; however, the surrounding arable habitats are suitable.

Management

- There may be some tree planting opportunities within the grassland habitats in the western section of the site, however these opportunities are very limited within the existing boundary. These should only be pursued with the intention of enhancing biodiversity and where this can be achieved.
- Given that over 56% of the site overlaps with the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), it is recommended that this woodland is retained and brought into positive management.



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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	40.401	Total Area (sq m)	404005.04
Central Grid Reference	NS4805SW		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises grasslands and two small sections of scrub woodland in the northwest and southeast. There is a small watercourse within the southeast, and a minor road through the centre of the sitThe site is predominantly grassland.The western area is largely a marshy grassland characterised by soft rush, creeping buttercup, meadow foxtail, marsh marigold and scattered hawthorn, with a strip of poor semi-improved grassland in the middle and broadleaf woodland in the north. The broadleaf woodland			

includes a range of native tree species such as birch, hawthorn, rowan and a dense understory of creeping buttercup, cock's foot, tufted hair grass and meadow foxtail.

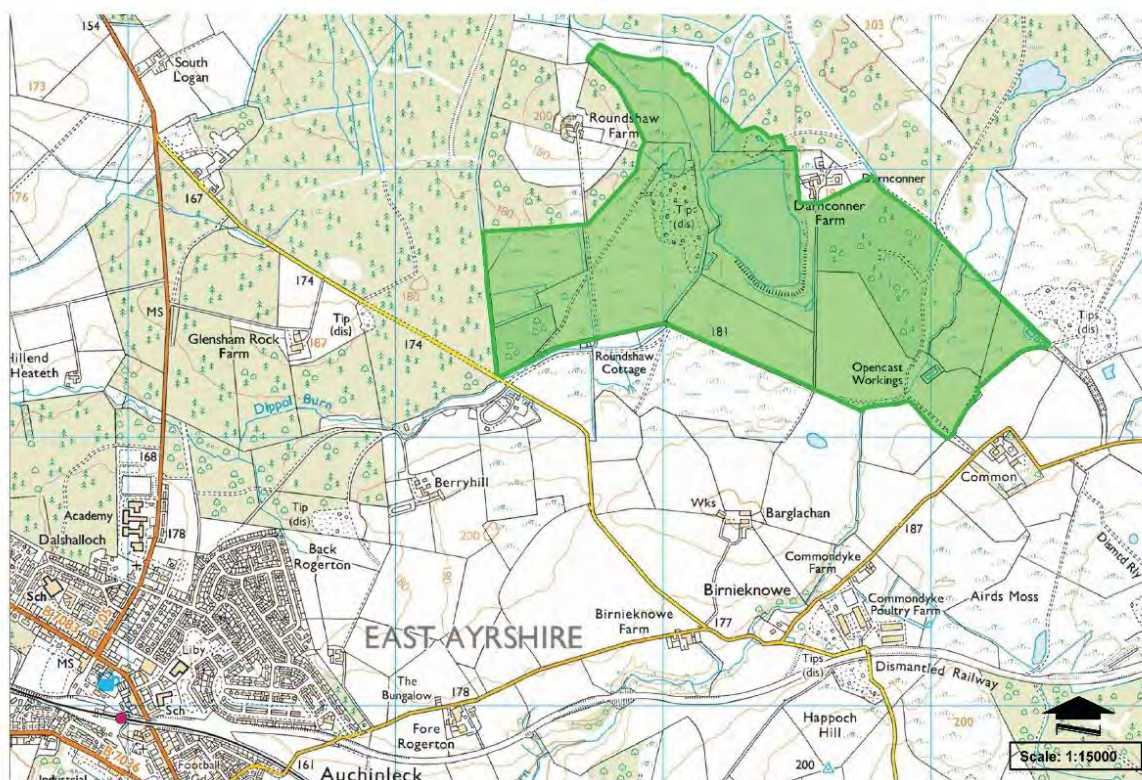
- The eastern area is largely a marshy grassland, with an improved grassland in the southeast, all grazed by sheep. The marshy grassland is dominated by soft rush, but includes species representative of acid grassland such as purple moor grass, mat grass and tormentil. Small areas of other habitats exist such as two small, fenced neutral grasslands in the centre and a semi-improved acid grassland slope in the southeast, scattered hawthorn and willow scrub in the southeast, a small ruderal area in the north and a very small wet modified bog area in the northeast. The small bog area included species such as hare's tail cottongrass, soft rush and tormentil.
- Two watercourses were present within the site, a narrow watercourse in the centre, east flowing down the hill and out of the site through the tall ruderal area, and a larger watercourse in the south
- This site lies within a B-Line

Protected Species

- The site is considered to provide limited suitable habitat for protected species (with the exception of Muck Water) due to the open grassland nature of the site and presence of livestock (sheep) throughout. The larger watercourse, Muck Water, may provide some suitable habitat for commuting and foraging otter and fresh water pearl mussel.

Management

- The site is grazed by sheep which have created a short sward, and which therefore exert some grazing and nutrient improvement pressures on the site.
- There may be some limited opportunities for tree planting within the northwest of the site to extend the small, existing broadleaf woodland in that area.
- The sward was generally very short, so grazing pressures on this site should be reviewed as the timing and intensity of grazing pressure on wet, acidic grasslands such as this can be managed to enhance the biodiversity of these important grasslands.



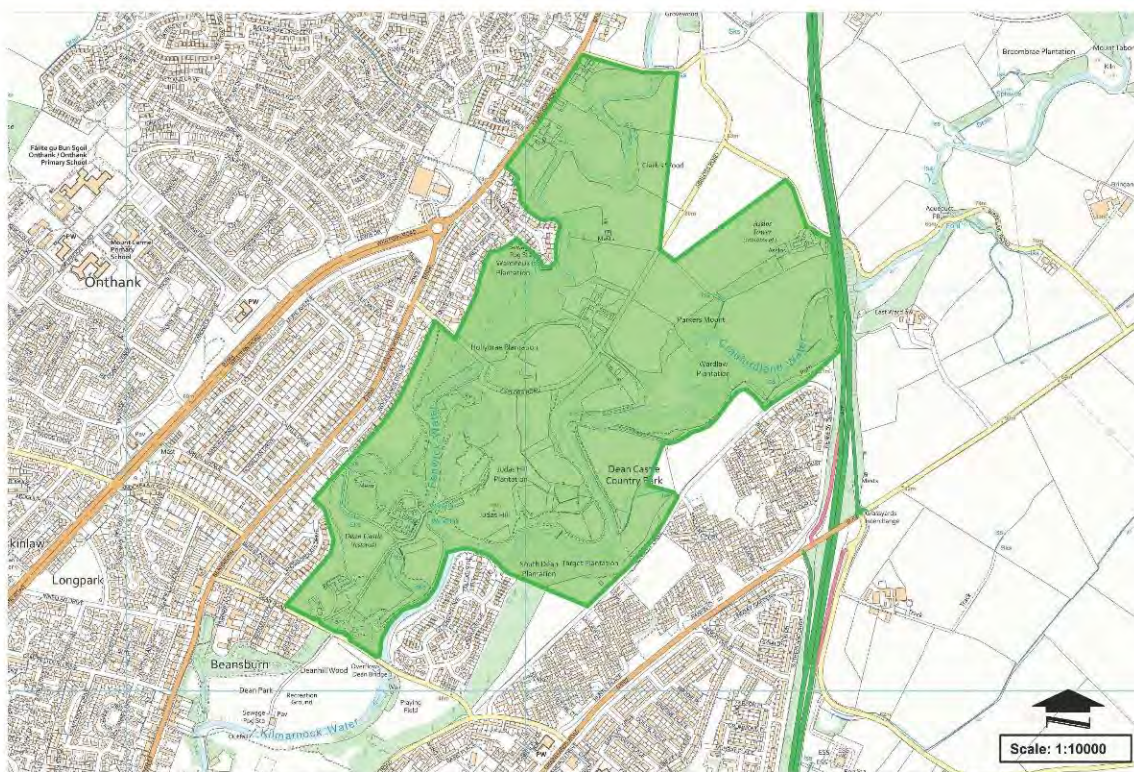
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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	138.543	Total Area (sq m)	1385425.69
Central Grid Reference	NS5723NW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.8km north-east of Auchinleck.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Darnconner site comprises largely open grasslands and two waterbodies, both likely man-made. The site is surrounded by upland habitat, commercial forestry and farmland.• Data provided by Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) include 107 records of and plants and animals from 2021 including one record of a brown hare, one record of a common frog, one record of a common toad, 19 records of invertebrates (e.g. small heath, common heath, dingy skipper,			

blue-tailed damselfly and large red damselfly) and 85 records of plants. Note the records are not quantified, only presence of a species may be inferred from the list provided.

Management

- It is recommended that a detailed botanical survey of the site is completed.
- An open cast coal mine is present within the south of the site. This may exert pollution pressures and pressures associated with human presence. If this is to extended, this would potentially place significant pressure on the habitats within the site through fragmentation, loss, pollution and disturbance.
- Potential for tree planting within the site to be determined following further botanical surveys, and in consultation with original data holders Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Management suggests have to be determined following further botanical surveys, and in consultation with original data holders - Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)
- Part of the site forms an unrestored opencast site. Cognisance of the value of the LNCS should be noted and integrated into any subsequent development proposals (including those relating to renewables or minerals) which may arise on site and be incorporate appropriate mitigation to reduce potentially significant negative impacts.
- Ensure that the requirements of the relevant and applicable LDP2 policies are met and addressed through design, layout and scale.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

93.754

Total Area (sq m)

937542.28

Central Grid Reference

NS4439NW

Context

The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, within the north-east of Kilmarnock.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

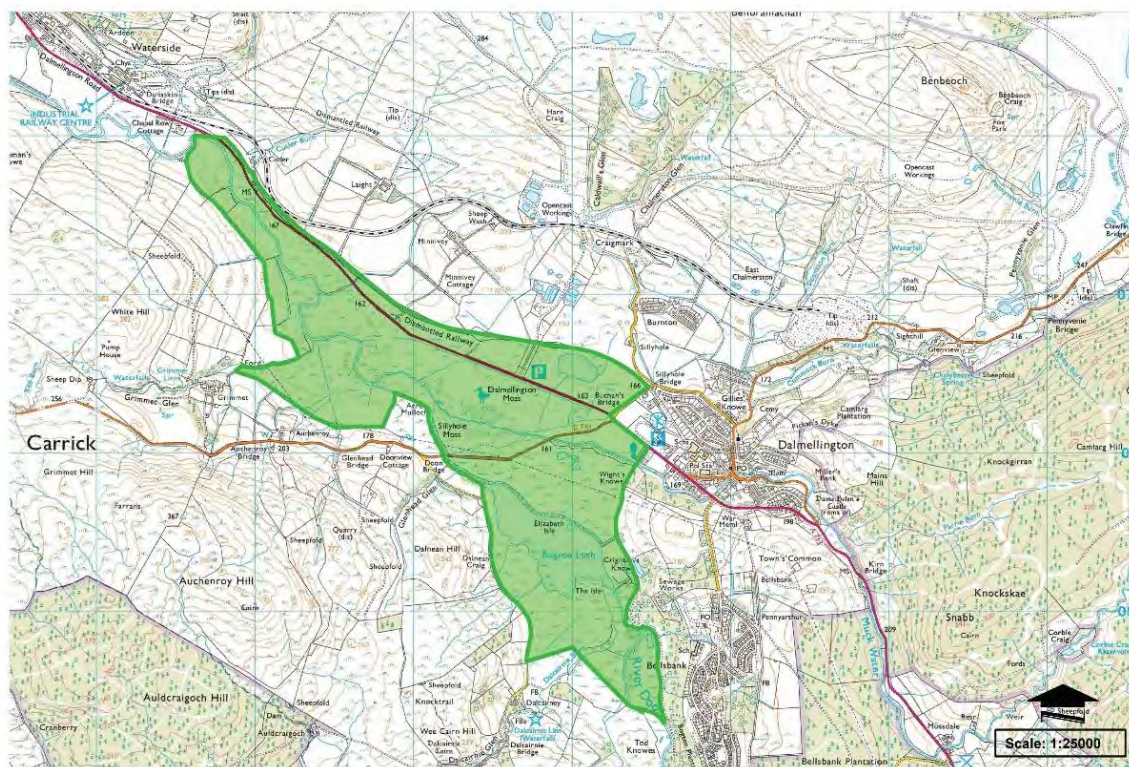
Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- This site includes a mix of broadleaf woodlands and open, managed grasslands. There is a good network of paths present within the site as well as commercial buildings, a walled garden, a waterbody and two watercourses; the Fenwick Water and the Craufurdland Water. These watercourses meet within the south of the site and form the Kilmarnock Water.

- The southern third of this site overlaps with a B-Line, however as the site is known to be managed by East Ayrshire Rangers, this site was not selected for a site visit.
- Data provided by SWSEIC included 88 records of terrestrial mammal within 500m of this site. These included 74 records of bats between 1997 and 2016, two records of otter from 1991, two records of red squirrel in 2004 and eight records of hedgehog between 2009 and 2019. The 88th record was of a domestic dog.
- SWSEIC provided over 4000 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes
 - 30 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *Eurasian hoopoe, kingfisher, long-tailed duck, Mediterranean gull, red crossbill, redwing and barn owl*
 - one record of greylag goose which is listed on Schedule 2
 - 1,035 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *barnacle goose, black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - a further 306 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*
- The data also includes:
 - 53 records of reptiles
 - *adder, common lizard and slow-worm, 160 records of amphibians (palmate newt, smooth newt, common frog and common toad*
 - 3 records of Atlantic salmon
 - 1,048 records of invertebrates including:
 - *azure hawker, beet carrion beetle, birch bank beetle, bird-cherry weevil, common darter, dingy skipper, grayling, heath grass-veneer, horsetail weevil, large heath, northern mining bee, scarce grass-veneer, small heath, small pearl-bordered fritillary, violet oil-beetle, water-lily reed beetle, white-footed furrow beetle, tree flies, true beetles and tree caddis flies.*

Management

- This LNCS is heavily used by the local population for recreational and educational purposes. There also appears, from a review of aerial imagery, to have been encroachment from agriculture, particularly within the north of the LNCS.
- Tree planting could be considered within the grasslands within this site, for example the grasslands within the east of the site. However, a survey of the grassland would be required prior to any tree planting as grasslands can offer biodiversity benefits in their own right.



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Primary Habitat Type

Wetlands

Total Area (ha)

321.616

Total Area (sq m)

3216158.71

Central Grid Reference

NS4606SW

Interest

Habitat, Connectivity & Biodiversity

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information
Habitat

- This site encompasses one waterbody, with River Doon flowing into it
- A range of mire and fen communities
- Adjacent Bogton Loch SSSI and wholly surrounds to Dalmellington Moss SSSI
- Borders a number of other LNCS including Craigengillan / Ness Glen Woodland (Site 6; page 73) to the southeast and Auchenroy / Glenmoun Uplands (Site 50; page 20) to the south

Biodiversity

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one natterer's bat, two pipistrelle bat, two common pipistrelle, two soprano pipistrelle bats from 1988 – 2016, four records of otter from 1991 – 2019, four records of red squirrels in 2004 – 2018 and one record of hedgehog within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided the records of 942 of birds found within 1km of the site. This includes:
 - 52 species of Schedule 1
 - *brambling, Eurasian bittern, fieldfare, hen harrier, long-tailed duck, peregrine, quail, barn owl, red crossbill, red kite and whooper swan*
 - and 16 records of Schedule 2 birds including
 - *goldeneye and greylag goose*
 - 248 records listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, wood warbler and woodcock*
 - and a further 96 records listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted fly catcher*
- The data also included six records of common frog, four records of adder, four records of common lizard, small heath, large heath, grayling, small pearl-bordered fritillary, scarce grass-veneer, common darter and beetle recorded within 500m of the site.

Protected Species

- Protected species likely occurring either within or in close proximity to site

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural fields and run-off from the minor roads to the east and south of the site. It is accessible to the public and could be used for dog walking.



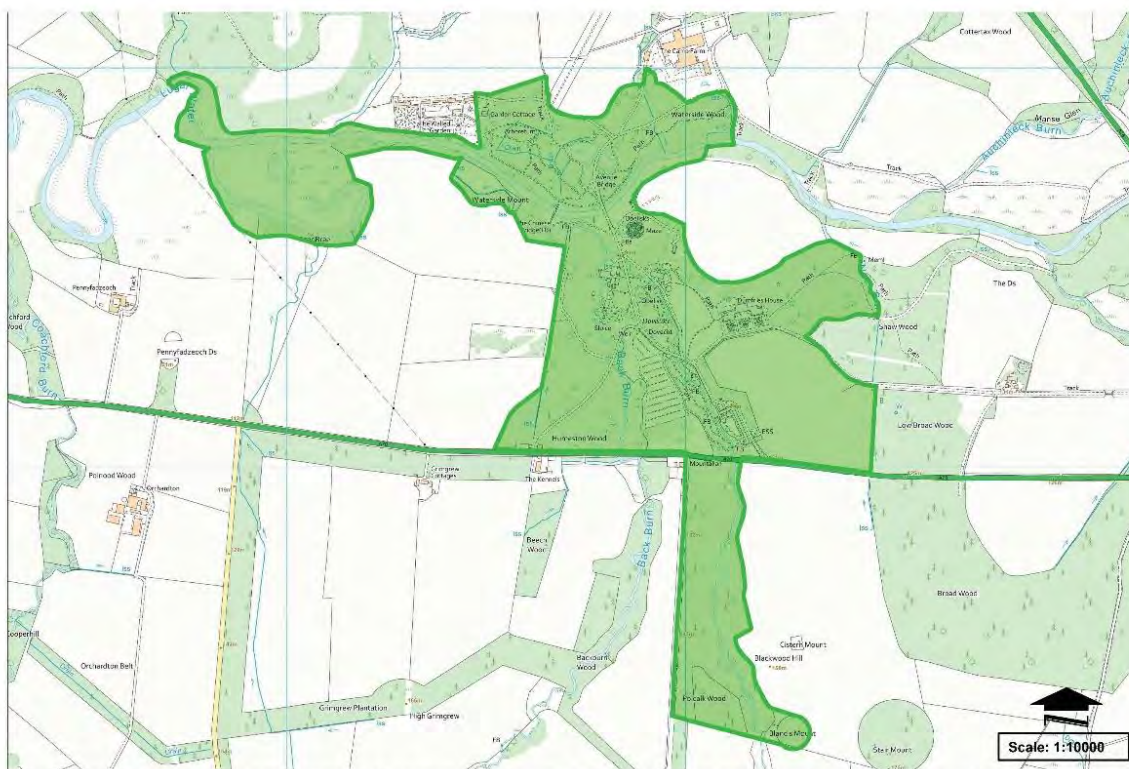
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	2.846	Total Area (sq m)	28458.20
Central Grid Reference	NS4419NW		
Context	The site is located within the west of East Ayrshire, immediately adjacent to Coalhall.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drongan Wood is entirely wooded except for the railway line which runs north-south through the centre of this section.• The majority of that woodland is listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).• Land use immediately surrounding the site is agricultural with Coalhall immediately north.			

- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981), Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) species and Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species within 500m of site.
- A total of 64 records of invertebrates were provided, including records of dingy skipper, grayling, small heath and small pearl-bordered fritillary, all recorded between 2011 and 2019.
- Plant records for this site include only bluebell and broad-leaved helleborine.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.



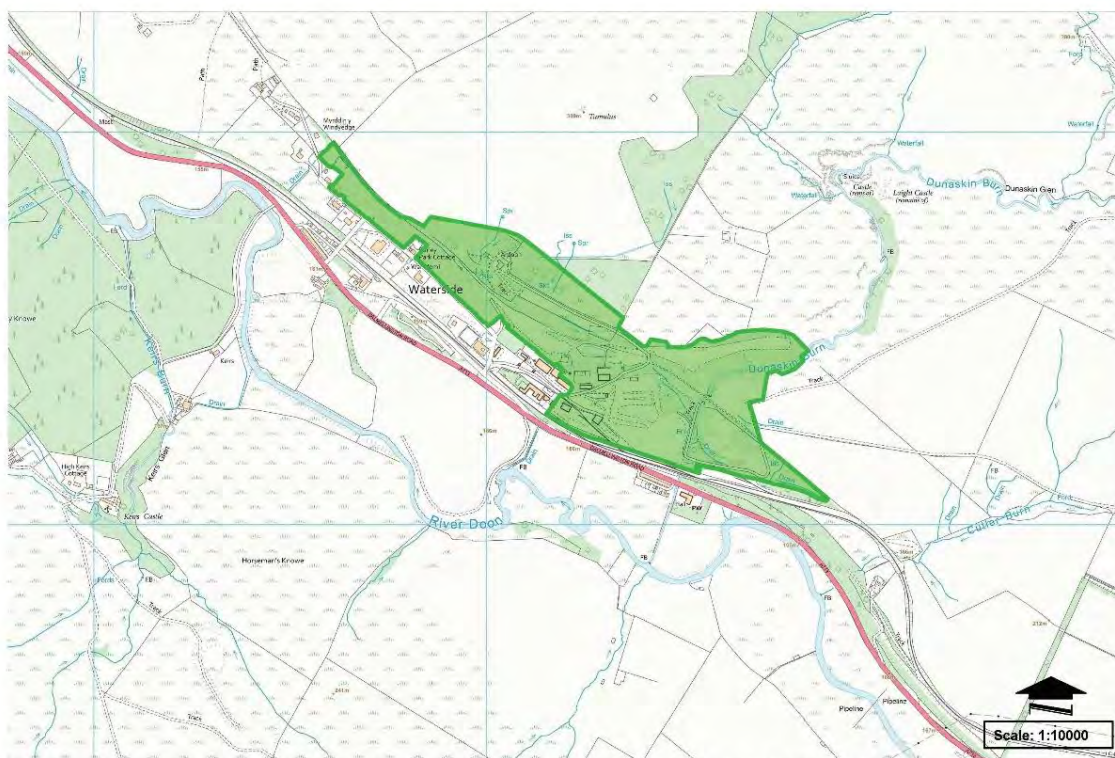
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	85.011	Total Area (sq m)	850110.22
Central Grid Reference	NS5420SW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 770m west of Cumnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site comprises two distinct sections. From a review of available aerial imagery, the eastern area is comprised predominantly of woodland, with areas of grassland of various uses, a car park, and several commercially used buildings. The Lugar Water flows through the north of the eastern section and two waterbodies are present north of the Lugar Water. The A70 crosses through the eastern section. 			

- The western section is much smaller than the east, separated by a field, and appears far less accessible to people. An unnamed waterbody joins a section of the Lugar Water inside the western section of this site which appears marshy on aerial imagery.
- Surrounding land uses comprise of agricultural fields, a public, walled garden, commercial forestry, and natural woodlands as well as Nest Burn, a small tributary to the Lugar Water. A small number of minor and private roads are present within and immediately adjacent to the eastern section, but no roads or paths appear to lead to the western section of the site.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however this site was not selected for a site survey.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified four records of terrestrial mammals including three records of badger in 2018 and 2019, including one which was dead on the road, and one record of brown hare in 2019 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 10,500 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 154 records of birds listed on Schedule 1
 - brambling, fieldfare, kingfisher, merlin, red crossbill, red kite, redwing and barn)
 - five records birds listed on Schedule 2
 - goldeneye and greylag goose
 - 1,520 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - bean goose, black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer
 - and a further 36 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - Common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow).
- The data also included one record of a common toad, five of a common frog, and 48 invertebrate records including common darter, dingy skipper, grayling small heath and true beetles.

Management

- Due to the proximity of two settlements, the public businesses within the site and active marketing as a tourist destination, the eastern section this site is under pressure from recreational use by the local population. The A70 and several minor roads within or bordering the eastern section and may apply pollution pressures from run-off. The surrounding agriculture may also cause run-off pollution pressures.
- The western section however appears to be more isolated, with no paths, roads or businesses within it so pressures to this section are likely largely from agricultural run-off.
- There may be some limited tree planting opportunities within the non-wooded areas within this site. However, detailed surveys of areas would be required as the site currently incorporates a mosaic of habitats which could be beneficial in its own right.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	28.644	Total Area (sq m)	286436.86
Central Grid Reference	NS4408SW		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, immediately east of Waterside.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is predominantly a broadleaf semi-natural woodland comprised of mature and semi-mature silver birch, hawthorn, ash, sycamore, willow and beech trees. Scattered through the southeast of the site are areas of bare ground, scrub and ephemeral / short perennial which are remnants of the ironworks activities within the site. Species gradually colonising these areas include birds foot trefoil, clover, willow, wild strawberry, wood rush, dandelion, red campion, daisy, rosebay willowherb, all of which are moving in from the surrounding woodland.			

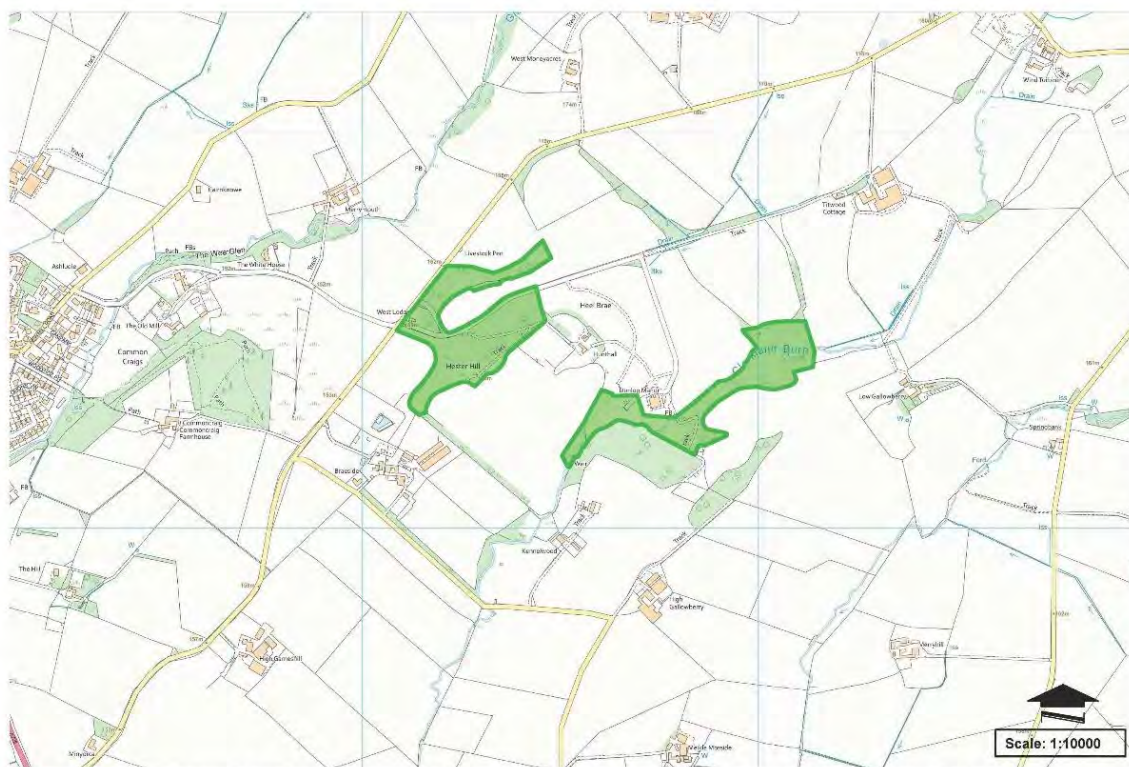
- There is a small area of neutral grassland within the woodland, and north of the site. Species include meadow foxtail, broadleaf dock, bramble, fern, cocks foot, wild strawberry, nettles, marsh thistle and the occasional hawthorn. The grasslands in the north of the site are grazed by cattle and sheep, but the remainder of the site is fenced off from the livestock.
- A small waterbody is present within the centre of the site, though this is fully shaded and fenced so the survey of this waterbody was limited.
- A number of buildings are present within the site including one residential building in the north and industrial buildings in various states of disrepair.

Protected Species

- Structures present within the site, as well as the woodland likely offer suitable roosting habitat for bats, while the site generally offers foraging and commuting potential for bats. Other species which many utilise the woodland habitat include badger, nesting birds and reptiles however no evidence of any protected species was identified.
- The waterbody in the centre of the site is not considered suitable for any protected species.

Management

- Due to the surrounding topography, the livestock in the fields north of the site may exert some small run-off pressure on this site.
- There is some potential for tree planting within the site where there is currently bare ground, scrub or ephemeral / short perennial habitats, however if given time it is thought these will naturally be colonised by tree species and become part of the surrounding woodland through natural succession.
- This site is an existing tourist attraction so could be used to educate the public about LCNS within East Ayrshire.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	6.594	Total Area (sq m)	65936.79
Central Grid Reference	NS4249SW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 680m east of Dunlop.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The eastern section slopes from west to east and is predominantly a semi-mature semi-natural broadleaf woodland. Tree species included beech, sycamore, horse chestnut and elder. The forest floor included a mix of native species included grasses and herbs.• The western section slopes from south to north and is also predominantly a semi-mature semi-nature broadleaf woodland, but the forest floor was an improved grassland in this section. A watercourse flows through this section from east to west.			

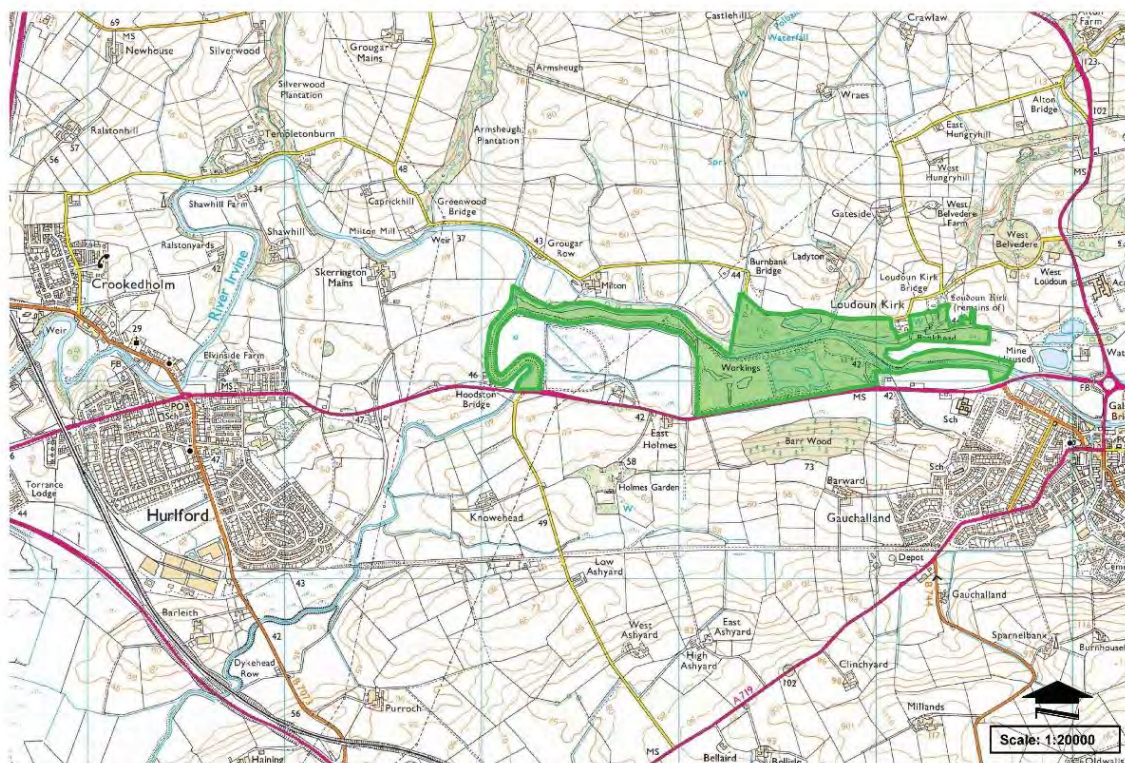
- Small areas of improved and poor-semi improved grassland were also present within both sections, and the cattle had access to the woodlands within both sites. Cattle access was more prominent in the western section where direct access was not possible, than the east.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified seven records of terrestrial mammals including four records of otter from 1991 and 2020, and two records of hedgehog dated 2005, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 123 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included 28 records of species listed on the SBL (curlew, house sparrow, kestrel, and swift) and six further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark and song thrush).
- The data also included one record each of palmate newt, common frog and small heath.

Protected Species

- This site is likely to support a range of protected species such as roosting bats, commuting and foraging otter, nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles, though no direct evidence was found.

Management

- Agricultural fields within and surrounding this site likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off, and minor roads may exert some low levels of pollution from traffic.
- This site is generally well used by the public for dog walking, though this is mostly confined to a single path through the western section.
- Some opportunities for tree planting could be considered within the north of the site to extend and join the woodlands in this area.
- Natural regeneration of woodlands within the neutral grasslands of this site is occurring and should be left to progress naturally.
- Consideration should be given to protecting the woodland from intrusion by livestock using fencing which would encourage more natural regeneration, particularly within the eastern section.
- Large stands of rhododendron has been identified within the western section – this should be removed.
- Fly-tipping should be monitored, reported and removed



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Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	61.865	Total Area (sq m)	618654.33
Central Grid Reference	NS4837SW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately north of Galston.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A watercourse, the River Irvine, flows through the site, east to west. It is generally bordered by scrub and woodland in the east and centre of the site and a neutral grasslands in the west.Neutral grasslandImproved grasslandMarshy grasslandBroadleaf semi-natural grasslandMixed woodland plantation – Conifer and broadleaf			

Biodiversity (including but not limited to)

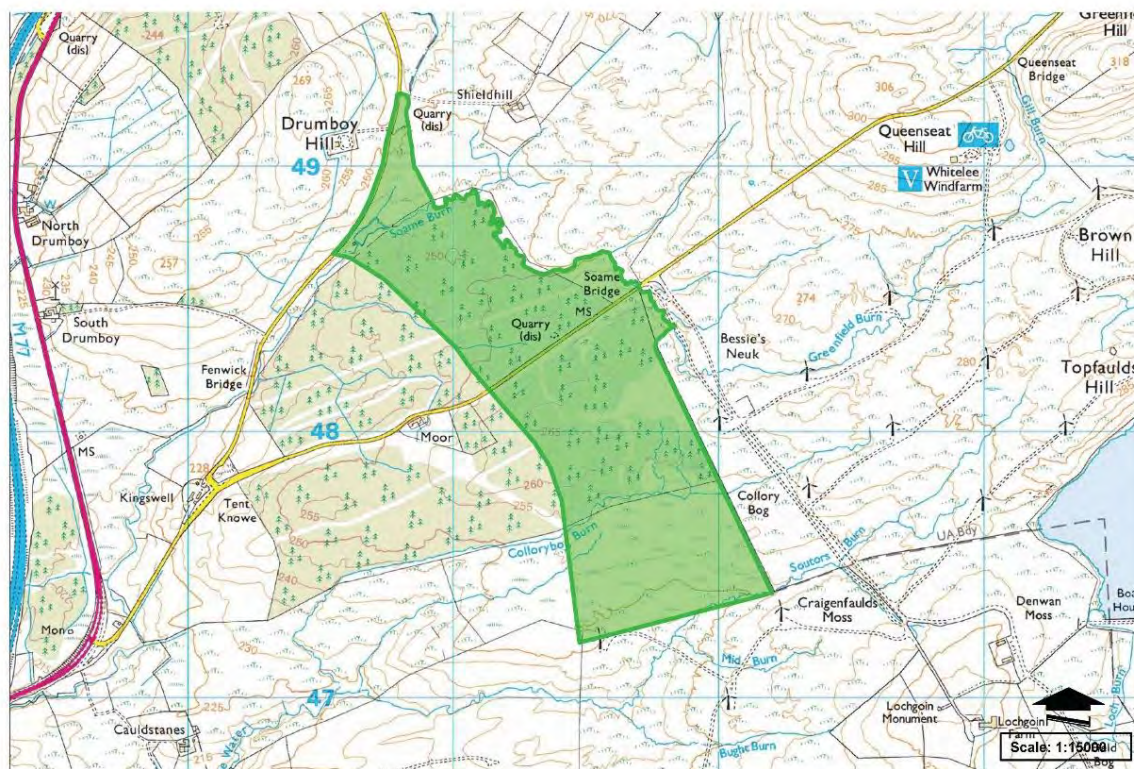
- Various bird species, including but not limited to - mute swans, Canada goose and goldeneyes.
- Neutral grassland species include - cocks foot, meadow foxtail, vetch, Yorkshire fog, flag iris, creeping buttercup, daisy, broadleaf dock, lesser stitchwort, yellow rattle, common birds foot trefoil, common mouse ear, lanceolate plantain, dandelion, red clover and crested dogs tail.
- Marshy grassland dominated by common reed but also includes - bullrush, butterbur, flag iris, nettles, red campion, creeping thistle, Yorkshire fog, cleavers, willow, meadowsweet, broadleaf dock, meadow foxtail and false oat grass
- Understory species – Dogs Mercury, nettles and cleavers

Protected Species

- Various bird species utilise the waterbodies within the site
- Habitats present within the site otherwise likely support suitable commuting and foraging habitat for bats, badger, otter, amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates.

Management

- This site should be safeguarded from further encroachment of development from the industrial site to the south, and farming practices to the north.
- The A70 and livestock grazing within the site likely exert some pollution pressure on this site.
- Tree planting could be considered around the southern waterbody as this area is predominantly sparse neutral grassland, gradually colonising bare ground.
- Grazing pressures from cattle within the east of the site should be reviewed.



Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	115.082	Total Area (sq m)	1150815.27
Central Grid Reference	NS5148SW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 4.5km north-east of Waterside.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is comprised predominantly of commercial woodland based on aerial imagery, with upland habitats to the south. A minor road runs through the site, and there is a road bordering the north of the site.Surrounding land uses comprise commercial forestry to the north and agricultural grasslands to the west. Whitelee Windfarm is to the east and south with associated roads and small			

tributaries leading to Loch Goin and Bennan Loch. Corsehouse Reservoir LNCS (Site No 72) is to the north and Craigendunton Reservoir LNCS (Site No 73) is to the south of the site.

- Data provided by SWSEIC included one record of a pine marten in 2017, one record of badger in 2006 and one record of brown hare in 2012 within 1km of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 1810 records of birds within 1km of this site. This included 29 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (barn owl, fieldfare, merlin, peregrine, red crossbill, redwing), 12 records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2, 579 records of species listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, short-eared owl, swift and woodcock), and a further 170 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher).
- The data also included one record of common toad.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Most of this site is existing plantation woodland already, so tree planting is not appropriate at this site.
- Agricultural run-off from the surrounding plantation may exert some pressures on this site, and pressures from the roads used on the working wind farm.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

6.760

Total Area (sq m)

67597.94

Central Grid Reference

NS4930NE

Context

The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.9km north of Mauchline.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- This site is comprised of grassland and scattered trees. A minor road runs through the centre of the site, with a second minor road forming the eastern boundary. A small watercourse forms the northern bound
- North of the minor road, the site is entirely comprised of a poor semi-improved grassland dominated by Yorkshire fog, with nettles, soft rush, white clover, tufted hair grass and spear thistle visible from the locked deer fences. Two bunds of manure were present in this area,

one more vegetated than the other suggesting they had been deposited at different times. A tree line was visible within this section, comprised of willow and hawthorn.

- This north area was entirely fenced with deer fencing, locked gates and signage noting the land as private and under CCTV surveillance therefore the survey was conducted from the minor road running through the site.
- South of the minor road, the site comprised of two habitats; a mosaic of marshy grassland and scrub dominated by soft rush, tufted hair grass, willow, Yorkshire fog, broadleaf dock and creeping buttercup and a small area which was only visible from the minor road and appeared to be dominated by ash. The south area was also surveyed from the minor road within the site due to the only access point being entirely water logged, and the hedgerow being impassable. Livestock in the surrounding fields and topography prevented access from other directions.
- The minor road was bordered by intact, species-poor hedgerows comprised mostly of beech, with hawthorn and honeysuckle.
- This site lies within a B-Line.
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Schedule 1 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) species
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species

Protected Species

- No evidence of protected species was identified within this site, and given the fencing surrounding the north area, protected species there are likely limited to nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians.
- The south area is considered more suited to a wider range of protected species, particularly within the ash trees at the far south. Species such as bats and badger may utilise the south area, in addition to nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Management

- Tracks from small vehicles or quad bikes were evident - illustrating this site is under pressure from human activities such as vegetation clearance, ground disturbance and pollution.
- Tree planting could be considered (where biodiversity value and enhancement can be achieved), however, natural succession means that habitats are likely to develop into woodland naturally given time.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	6.155	Total Area (sq m)	61553.77
Central Grid Reference	NS6514SW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 2.6 km east of New Cumnock		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site consists of a watercourse surrounded by scrub and woodland (dominated by birch, alder and oak), which in turn is surrounded by grasslandGarclaugh Burn flows through the site – a tributary of the Nith River.Predominantly surrounded by agricultural land, grasslands and infrastructure (road networks)A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Land (AWI)			
Biodiversity			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 26 records of terrestrial mammals including 23 records of bats in 1989, 1990 and 1991, one record of otter dated 1991 and two records of brown hare dated 1997, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 225 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - four records of red crossbill, which is listed on Schedule 1
 - ten records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 59 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, ring ouzel, swift and tree pipit*
 - and a further 35 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Protected Species

- There is potential for protected species within or nearby the site.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural fields and pollution from the road network.

Biodiversity

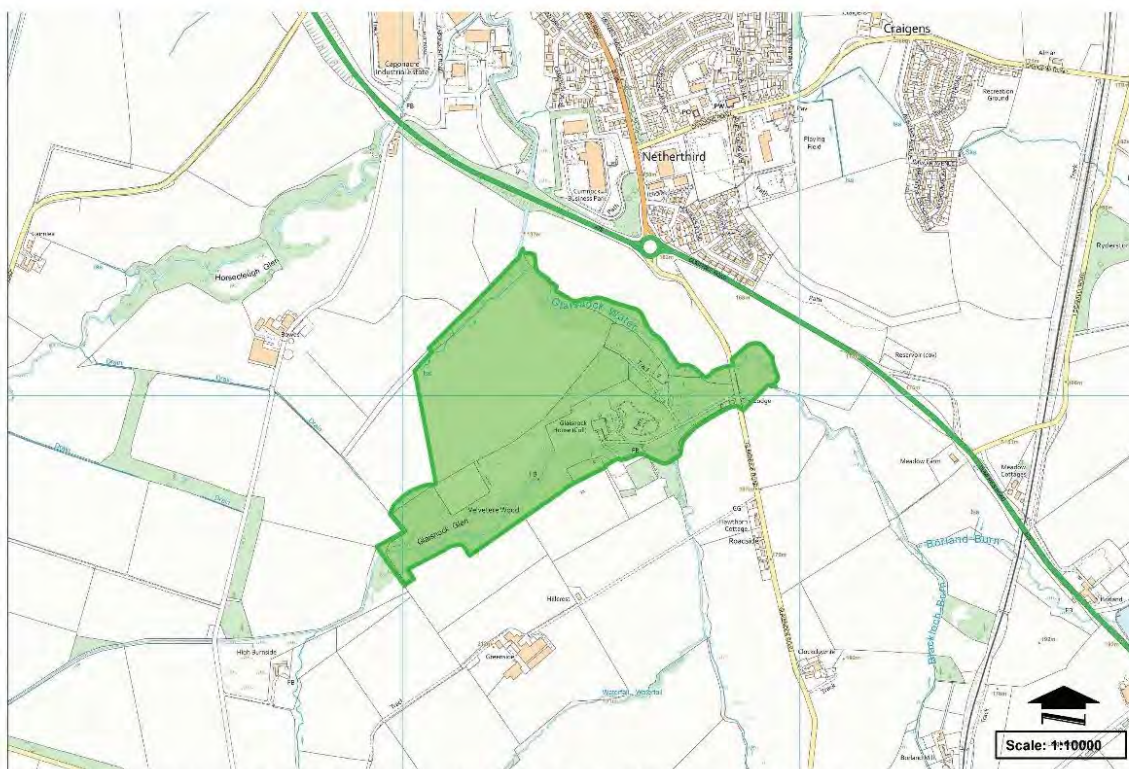
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 26 records of terrestrial mammals including 23 records of bats in 1989, 1990 and 1991, one record of otter dated 1991 and two records of brown hare dated 1997, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 225 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - four records of red crossbill, which is listed on Schedule 1
 - ten records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 59 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, ring ouzel, swift and tree pipit*
 - and a further 35 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Protected Species

- There is potential for protected species within or nearby the site.

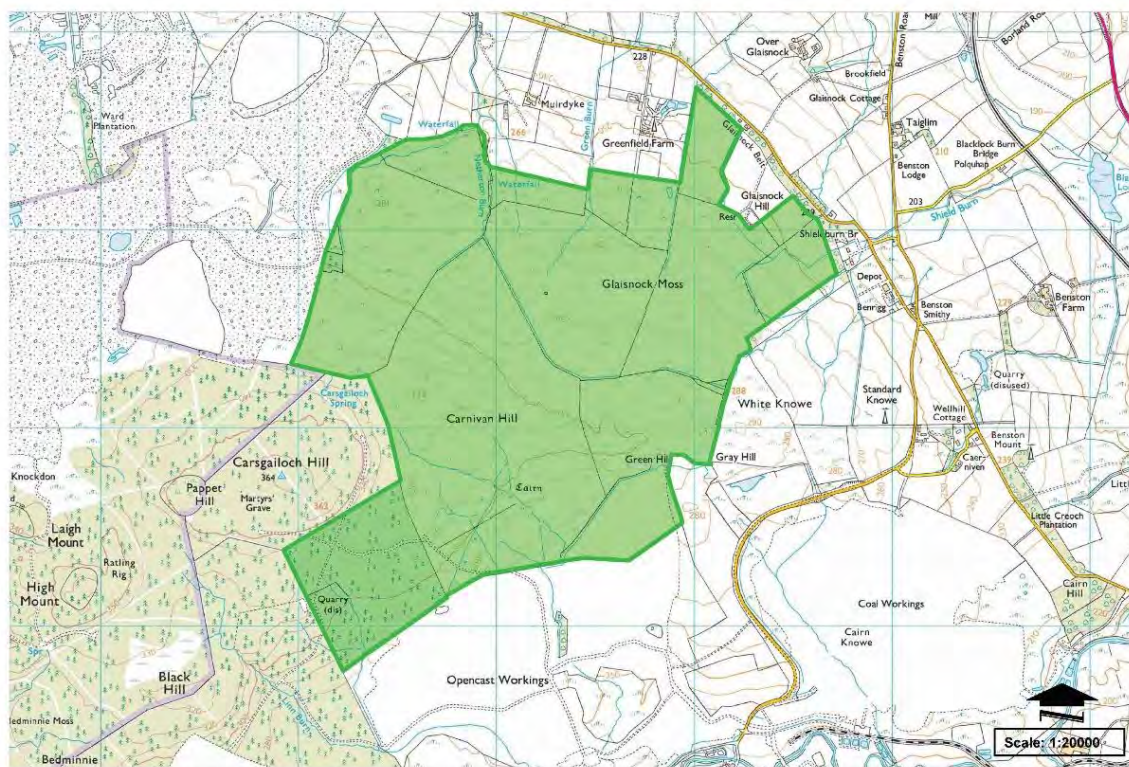
Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural fields and pollution from the road network.



Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	36.759	Total Area (sq m)	367594.57
Central Grid Reference	NS5717NW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 113m south of Cumnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This site is comprised of natural and planted woodland and grasslands. A private residential home and garden, minor public road (Glaisnock Road) and Glaisnock House and gardens (understood to have been abandoned) are included within this site boundary.• A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however this site was not selected for a site survey.• Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of a bat in 2016 within 500m of this site.			

- SWSEIC also provided 284 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included five records of barn owl which are listed on Schedule 1, 76 records of birds listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer) and a further 38 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher).



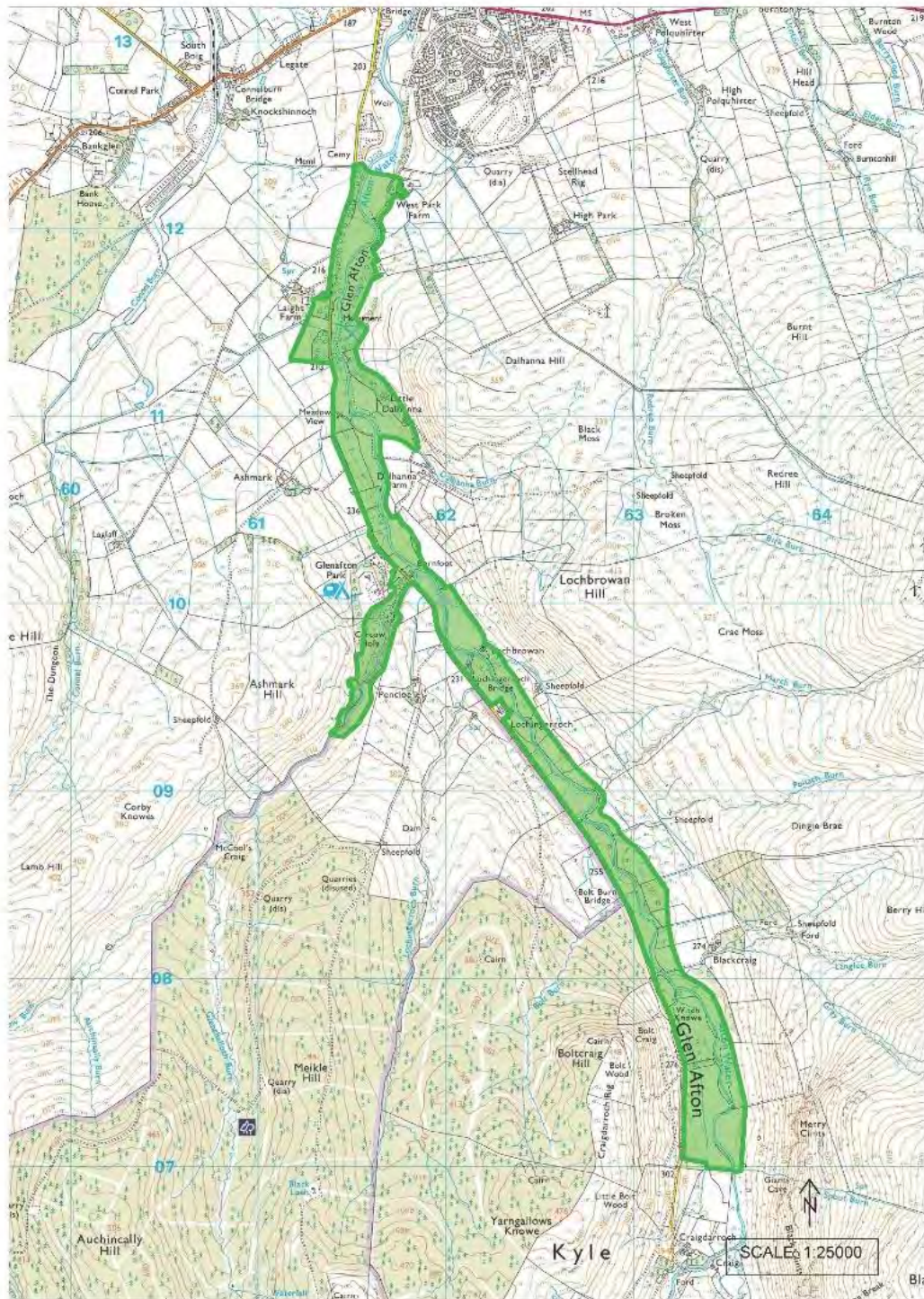
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Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	438.003	Total Area (sq m)	4380033.08
Central Grid Reference	NS5615SW		
Context	The site located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 2km south of Cumnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site comprises an area of upland habitats of blanket bog, modified bog and acid grassland. Forestry plantation is present to the southwest, with associated access tracks.• Surrounding land uses comprise of areas of agricultural fields to the north and east, and forestry plantation to the west of the site. Minor roads are present to the north and east and there are several farm buildings.			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991 and one brown hare record in 2019 within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 318 records of birds within 1km of this site. This included 9 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (barn owl, hen harrier and red crossbill), 2 records of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2, 80 records of birds listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer) and 37 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, song thrush and spotted flycatcher).
- The data also included one record of common frog, common darter and true beetle.

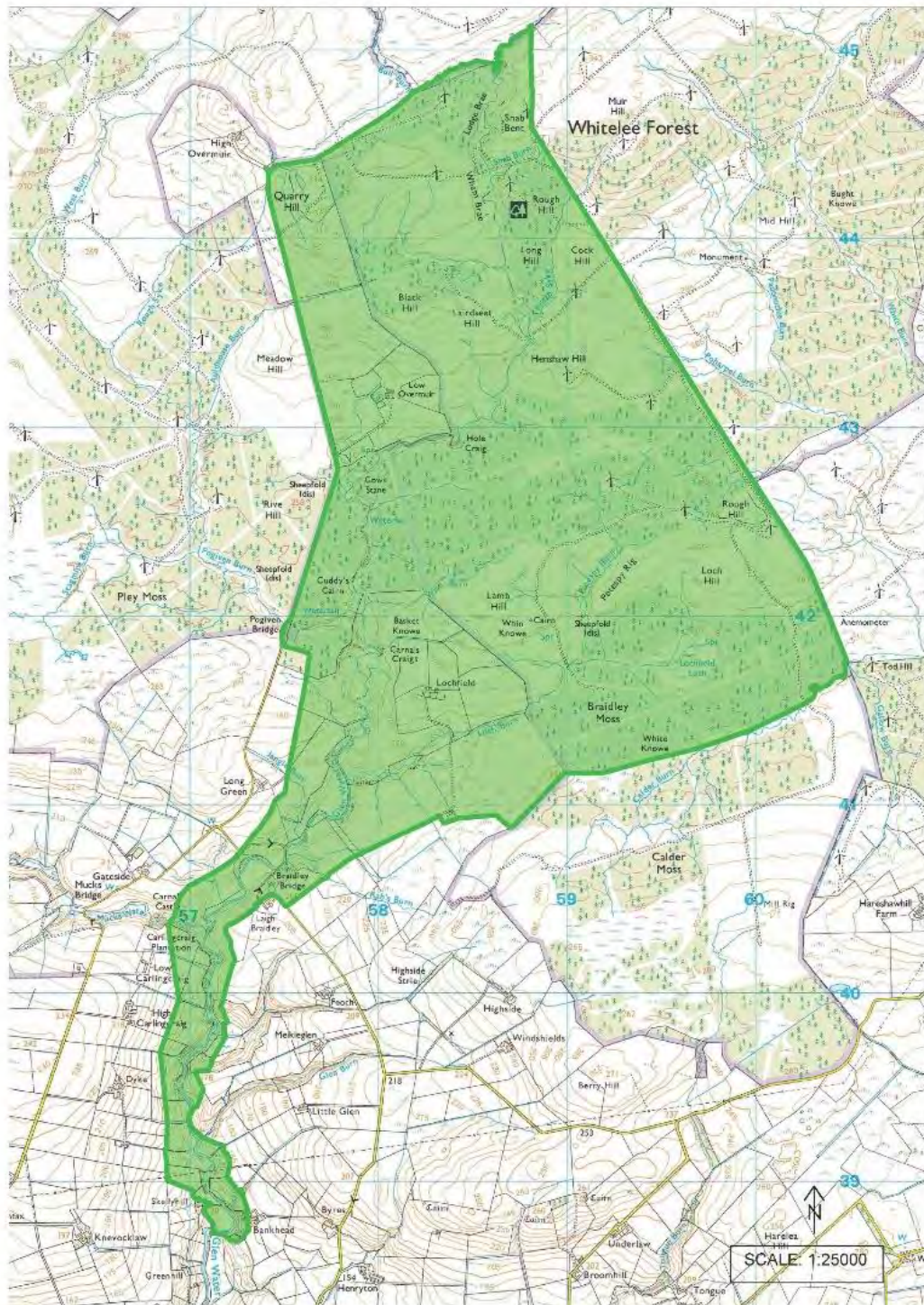
Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Given that this is an upland habitat, with areas of dry heath and blanket bog, planting trees is not recommended in most areas.



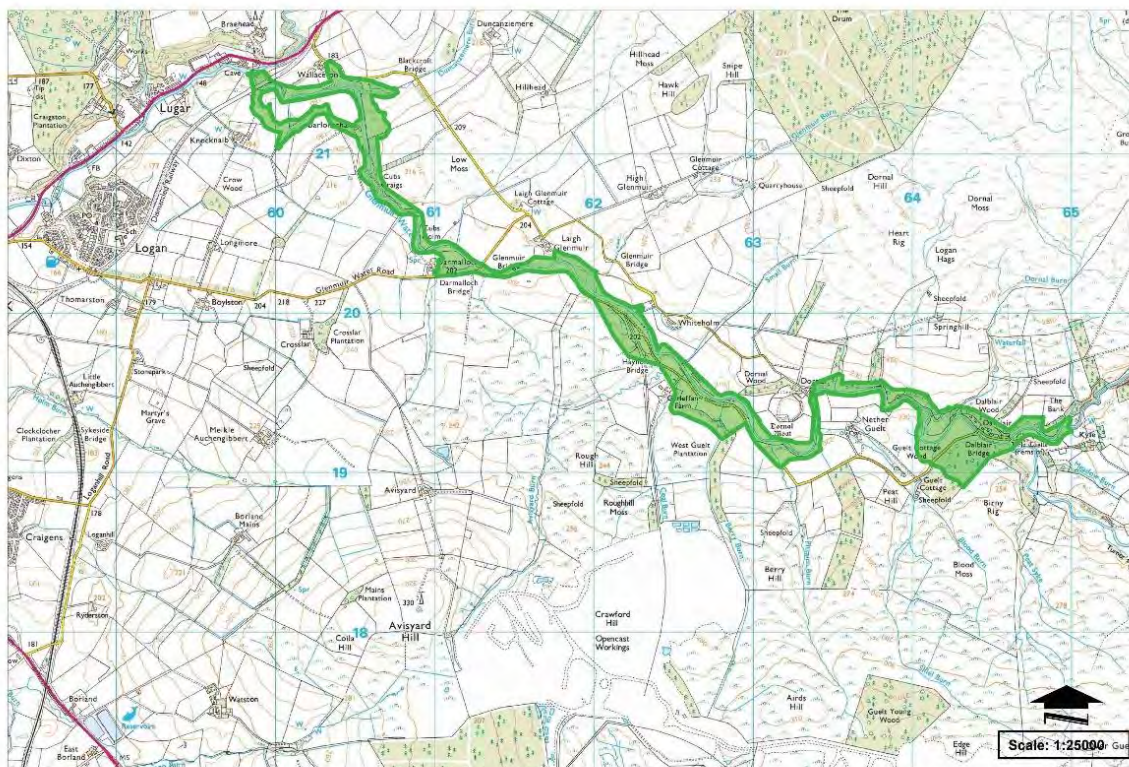
Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	136.640	Total Area (sq m)	1366400.52
Central Grid Reference	NS6111SE		

Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 270m south of New Cumnock.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site runs adjacent to Afton Uplands LNCS with Afton Water running through the site, associated woodlands and grasslands. Carcow Brun also flows into Afton Water and Afton Road runs to the west of the site boundary. The site is predominantly surrounded by agricultural land to the east, commercial forestry to the west, and Afton Uplands LNCS (Site 49, page 12). Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of otter in 1991, one record of red squirrel between 2010 – 2016 and one record of hedgehog in 2017 within 1km of the site. There were also 15 records of Myotis bats, 10 records of brown long-eared bat, 36 common pipistrelle, 25 soprano pipistrelle, five Nathusius's pipistrelle, five Daubenton's bat, 10 noctule bats, four natterer's, eight Nyctalus bats, six noctule and two Whiskered/Brandt's bats in 2016. SWSEIC also provided 1073 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33 records of species listed on Schedule 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>black redstart, brambling, fieldfare, hobby, merlin, red crossbill, red kite, redwing, snow bunting, barn owl, osprey and whooper swan</i> 11 records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2 230 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, ring ouzel, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, wood warbler and woodcock</i> 133 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher</i> The data also included three records of invertebrates of small heath. 	
Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be required to complete a LNCS assessment, identify any areas suitable for tree planting, or which required management to protect. The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms, and pollution from the minor roads. This site offers some tree planting opportunities in the agricultural fields. 	



Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	866.232	Total Area (sq m)	8662316.77
Central Grid Reference	NS5842NE		

Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 500m north of Darvel.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site comprises a mosaic of forestry plantation and fields, including wind turbine site and farms to the south. Glen Water runs through the site from south to north. • Surrounding land uses comprise wind farms, conifer plantations and agricultural land. Minor roads border the south and west of the site. Pley Moss LNCS (Site 65, page 183) is 100m to the west. • Data provided by SWSEIC identified 14 records of terrestrial mammals including five records of otter between 1991 – 2014, four records of bats in 2001 – 2014, one record of red squirrel in 2017, one record of badger in 2016, one record of brown hare in 2016, and two records of hedgehog in 2017 within 1000m of this site. • SWSEIC also provided 1518 records of birds within 1000m of this site. This included 35 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (hen harrier, merlin, red crossbill, ruff, scaup and barn owl), 16 records of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2, 383 records of birds listed on the SBL (bean goose, black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, wood warbler, and yellowhammer) and 123 further records of species which are listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, European skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow). • Data records also included small pearl-bordered fritillary, small heath, large heath and grayling. 	
Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended to identify any areas suitable for tree planting or which require management action. 	

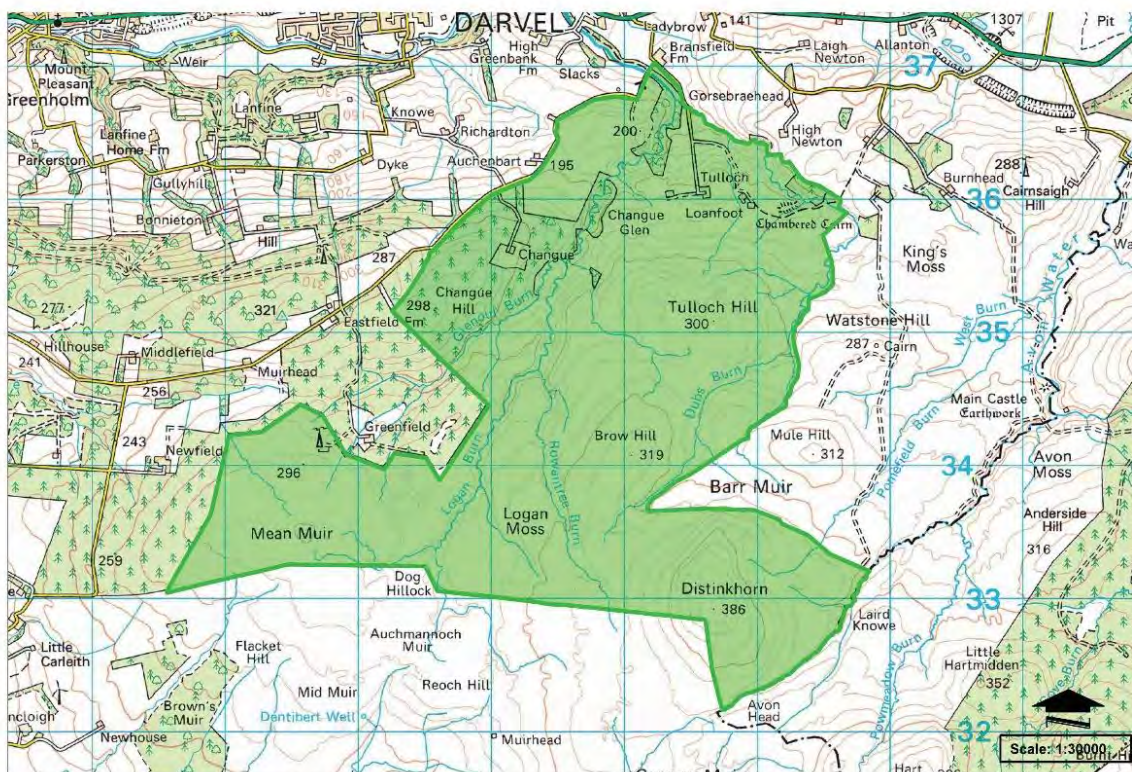


Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	97.007	Total Area (sq m)	970071.45
Central Grid Reference	NS6021SE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, immediately south of Lugar.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site broadly follows the Glenmuir Water and associated woodlands and grasslands. The site includes several agricultural fields, a small number of residential houses and gardens in the south, as well as a few minor roads.• The site is predominantly surrounded by agricultural land, a small area of commercial forestry and two other LNCS.			

- This site overlaps a small part of Lugar Water: Holmhead to Braehead LNCS (Site 86, page 156) in the north, and immediately borders Muirkirk South Uplands SSSI.
- Approximately 18% of the site (small areas within the northwest and middle sections) overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however this site was not selected for a site survey.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified six records of terrestrial mammals including two records of bat roosts in 2014 and 2015, three records of otter dated 1991 and one record of brown hare dated 2019, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 691 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 16 records of birds listed on Schedule 1
 - *merlin, red crossbill and barn owl*
 - three records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 181 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit and woodcock*
 - and a further 97 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*
- The data also included two records of common lizard, one record of palmate newt, two records of common toad, three records of common frog and 31 records of invertebrates including common darter, small heath, large heath, small pearl-bordered fritillary, scarce grass-veneer and true beetles.

Management

- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms, and pollution from the minor roads and railway.
- There may be some limited tree planting opportunities within the non-wooded areas within this site. However, detailed surveys of areas would be required as the non-agricultural grasslands could be beneficial in its own right.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Composite

Total Area (ha)

1148.57

Total Area (sq m)

11485694.58

Central Grid Reference

NS5734NE

Context

The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 300m south of Priestland.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- The site comprises predominantly upland habitat of heath and bog, with a mosaic of grasslands, forestry plantation, scrub and woodland in the north of the site. Several small watercourses also cross the site. There are several buildings with associated houses across the north of the site.
- Surrounding land uses comprises agricultural land to the north, commercial forestry to the west, and upland habitat to the east. Muirkirk North Uplands SSSI is adjacent to the south.

- A small proportion of the site (small areas within the northwest and middle sections) overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one common pipistrelle in 2014, two pipistrelle species in 2001, one soprano pipistrelle in 2001, one record of otter 1991, one badger record in 2015, three records of brown hare from 2000 – 2015, one record of hedgehog in 2000 and one record of red squirrel in 2000 within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 912 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 26 records listed on Schedule 1
 - *barn owl, merlin, quail, red crossbill*
 - 1 record of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2
 - 201 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, ring ouzel, swift, tree pipit, wood warbler and yellowhammer*
 - 121 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- Data also included records of small heath and large heath.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Some pressures from the surrounding agricultural fields and forestry plantation may be exerted on this site in the form of grazing and pollution run-off but without a survey, this could not be confirmed.
- A survey of the site would be required to assess this site's potential for tree planting.



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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	3.703	Total Area (sq m)	37034.49
Central Grid Reference	NS6319SE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 4km south-east of Lugar.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is comprised of grassland and scrub, with a minor road running along the west and south boundary. Glenmuir Water: Lugar to Kyle Castle LNCS (Site 86, page 122) is to the north of the site, and Muirkirk South Uplands SSSI to the south.Surrounding land comprises agricultural farmland, forestry plantation, minor roads, and residential buildings.			

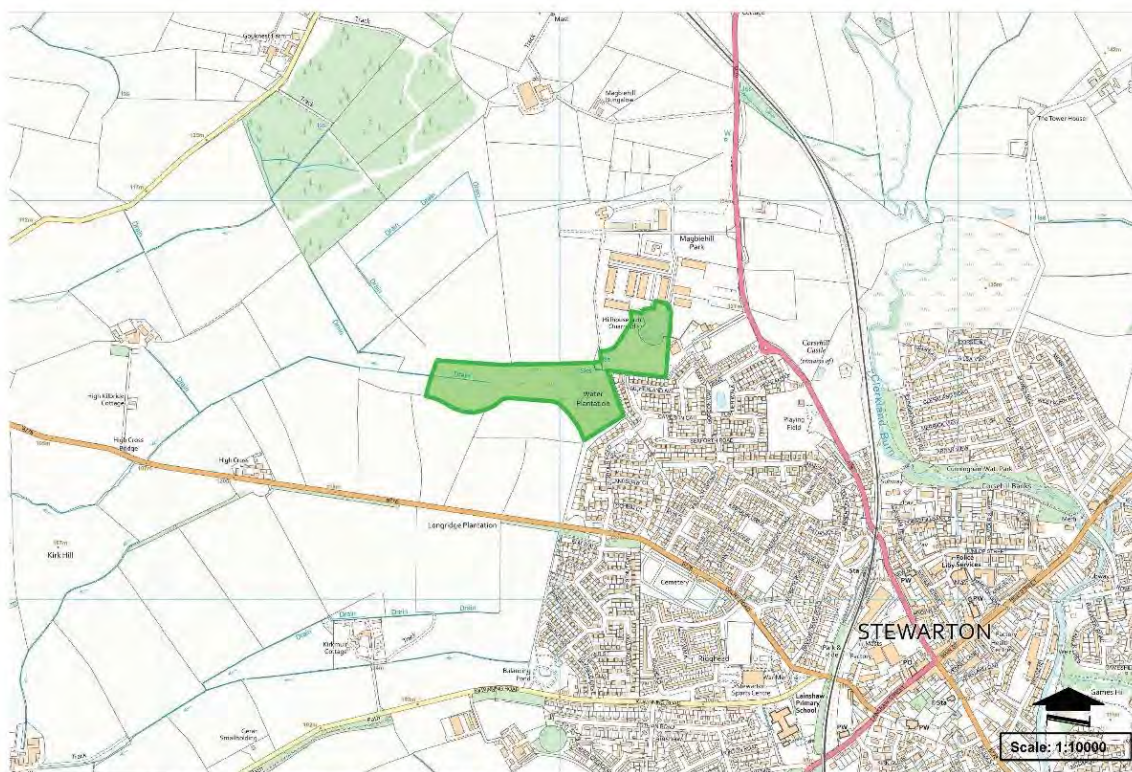
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Schedule 1 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981), Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) species and Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species within 500m of site.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter from 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 94 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - one record of listed on Schedule 1 barn owl
 - 20 records of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2
 - 146 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *curlew, herring gull, kestrel, lapwing and woodcock*
 - and a further 6 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *Eurasian skylark, Eurasian bullfinch and song thrush*

Protected Species

- Protected species could occurring either within or in close proximity to site. This should be considered.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action or protection.



Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	7.571	Total Area (sq m)	75712.76
Central Grid Reference	NS4046NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately north of Stewarton.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is relatively flat and comprises predominantly marshy grassland and semi-natural broadleaf woodland.Flooded old quarries - A small but deep, fenced-off waterbody is present within the north of the site, surrounded by scattered scrub and neutral grassWetland habitatsSome bird interest			

Biodiversity (including but not limited to)

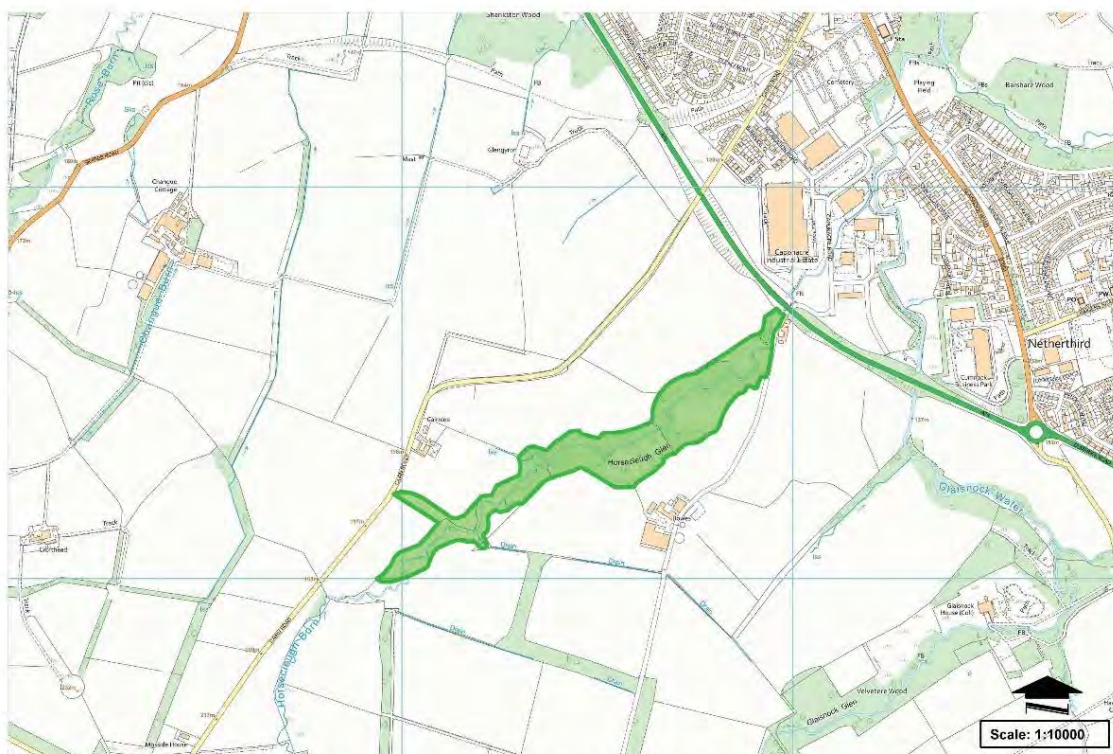
- Tree species include - silver birch, beech and hawthorn, while the understory comprises soft rush, creeping buttercup, cock's foot and marsh marigold.
- Scattered scrub and neutral grassland species include - gorse, willow, broadleaf dock, perennial rye grass, creeping buttercup hawthorn and nettles

Protected Species

- A number of standing deadwood trees are on site likely to provide suitable habitat for roosting, nesting and foraging bats, woodpecker and owl amongst other protected and rare species.
- A fox and roe deer were seen during the survey, both likely foraging within the site prior to being disturbed.
- The woodland within the southwest of the site was very wet underfoot and in placed water pooled creating habitat suitable for breeding amphibians.

Management

- Pressures include - encroachment from the new housing development immediately south of the site.
- Land immediately north of the site is farmed and slopes downhill into this site therefore farming practices may exert some runoff pressures on this site.
- There is potential for tree planting within the west and centre of the site to expand the existing broadleaf woodland within the centre of the site.
- Fencing and signage within the site should be maintained to prevent damage to the habitats, and harm to the local population.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	11.691	Total Area (sq m)	116912.58
Central Grid Reference	NS5618SE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, Approximately 44m south-west of Cumnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This site is comprised of woodland, scrub and small areas of grassland.• Horsecleugh Burn flows through the site from west to east.• Surrounding land uses comprise of agricultural fields, with Horsecleugh Burn and scrub to the immediate southwest. A farm steading and the A76 road are northeast of the site.• A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of a bat in 2001, and one record of an otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 286 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - six records of barn owl which are listed on Schedule 1
 - 77 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - a further 36 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher.*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended to identify any areas suitable for tree planting, or which required management action.
- There may be some limited tree planting opportunities within the very small grasslands within this site. A detailed surveys of these grasslands would be required to ensure that grasslands were not biodiverse.



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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	4.302	Total Area (sq m)	43019.84
Central Grid Reference	NS4233SE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately north of Stewarton.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises a mix of grasslands and woodland habitats. The site is bordered on the north by a minor road when then crosses through the centre of the site creating east and west sections, and to the south by North Ayrshire.Much of the site is comprised of improved grassland dominated by perennial rye grass, nettles, Yorkshire fog, spear thistle, white clover, sheep sorrel, soft rush, creeping buttercup, creeping thistle and knapweed, and used for grazing sheep or donkeys.			

- Two areas of neutral grassland are present with the site, a small one west of the minor road which passes through the site, and a larger one east of the minor road which is accessible to grazing cattle.
- The smaller western neutral grassland has scattered scrub within it and species present include Yorkshire fog, creeping buttercup, red clover, White clover, field rush, tufted hair grass, sheep sorrel, creeping thistle, gorse, hawthorn, spear thistle, bramble, ash, soft rush, nettles and hogweed.
- The larger neutral grassland was dominated by Yorkshire fog, with p rye, soft rush, crested dogs tail, nettles, creeping buttercup, White clover and sheep sorrel. The sward was shorter due to the presence of cattle which were absent from the western neutral grassland.
- Two small blocks of planted broadleaf woodland were present in the east; tree species included ash, hawthorn, beech and lime. These two blocks bordered a semi-natural broadleaf woodland in the far east of the site. This woodland was comprised of ash, hawthorn and beech, with an understory of nettles, bramble, creeping thistle, Yorkshire fog, creeping bent, common spotted orchid, selfheal and sheep sorrel.
- Species within the western woodland block were similar, but with the addition of willow, gorse, perennial rye and lady's bedstraw.
- One sluggish and highly eutrophic watercourse was present within the site, appearing from a field drainage outfall and flowing east towards a small area of bare ground. The small area of bare ground within the centre of the site was dry at the time of survey but may occasionally become inundated with water. While this water is likely to include a lot of run-off from the surrounding agricultural land, it may provide some habitat for mobile species.
- This site lies within a B-Line

Biodiversity

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified no records of terrestrial mammals within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 20 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - one record of whooper swan listed on Schedule 1 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
 - 14 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing and yellowhammer*
 - and two further records of song thrush which are listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

Protected Species

- Habitats with the potential to support protected species are likely to be confined to the woodlands, either semi-natural or planted, within this site. Woodlands such as those found within this site offer potential for bats, badger, common species of nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Management

- The watercourse within the site was clear evidence of agricultural run-off affecting this site, though impacts appear to mainly affect the improved, grazed field.
- Tree planting could be considered within the neutral grassland in the east of the site, to extend the woodland blocks which surround it on three sides.
- Livestock should be excluded from the neutral grassland west of the minor road in the site, and from the woodlands in the east and west.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	2.096	Total Area (sq m)	20958.21
Central Grid Reference	NS4133NW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately west of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site comprises a broadleaf semi-natural woodland dominated by sycamore. Other species present within the woodlands included ash, hawthorn, nettles, bramble, ivy, hogweed and Yorkshire fog as well as small amounts of birch, elder and willow.Very small areas of improved grassland and poor semi-improved grassland are included within the site boundary, likely due to digitisation errors from old hand-drawn maps.This site is comprised almost entirely of a broadleaf semi-natural woodland.			

- Surrounding land uses comprise agricultural fields, with farm steadings and the A77 within the wider vicinity. The site is bordered by a private road to one such steading on its northern boundary.
- The site overlaps with a B-Line and straddles the East and North Ayrshire boundary with most of the site in East Ayrshire, and a small amount in North Ayrshire.
- SWSEIC also provided 22 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included 14 records of birds listed on the SBL (herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, woodcock and yellowhammer) and one further record of a song thrush which is listed on the Ayrshire BAP.

Protected Species

- The woodlands likely provide potential habitat for roosting bats, given the variety of trees present.

Management

- The surrounding agricultural practices may exert some pressure on this site in terms of pollution run-off.
- The vast majority of the site is already wooded, while the remainder of the site is farmland therefore there is very limited potential for tree planting within the existing boundary.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	3.044	Total Area (sq m)	30439.83
Central Grid Reference	NS6926NW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, immediately south of Muirkirk.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site slopes steeply from the south to the River Ayr at the north.• The broadleaf semi-natural woodland which makes up the majority of the site contained tree species such as beech, ash, sycamore, red beech, Scots pine, elm and rowan, as well as an understory of creeping soft grass, spiky male fern, cocks footy, wood sorrel, foxglove, nettles, vetch, pignut and germander speedwell.• A small marshy grassland with scrub willow was identified at the far west of the site. This area was dominated by meadowsweet and common reed, with water avens, nettles, soft rush,			

sheep sorrel, creeping buttercup, creeping thistle, cocks foot and rare sycamore and rowan trees present.

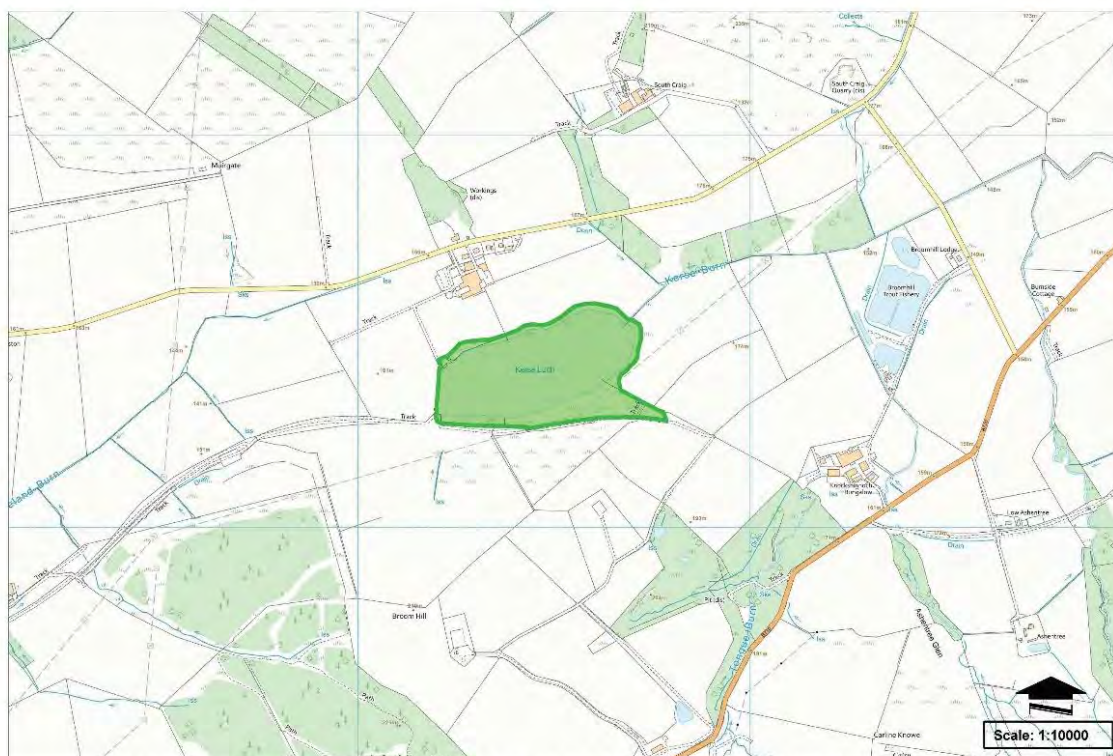
- A very small section of the River Ayr is included within this site's boundary.
- A single, small stand of rhododendron was identified within the centre of the site.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory.
- The site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 235 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 53 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll and woodcock*
 - a further 31 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Protected Species

- The woodland offers suitable habitat for few protected species due to the lack of connectivity to similar habitats within the wider landscape.
- The watercourse provides only foraging and commuting habitat for otter within the length of this site.

Management

- Campsite users exert a small amount of recreational pressure on the woodland; however the main pressure is likely to be small amounts of run-off from the surrounding agricultural fields and minor road.
- Given that the site is almost entirely wooded, tree planting opportunities are considered unlikely within this site, however refer to opportunities presented by proposed boundary changes below.
- Rhododendron should be removed the site before it spreads.



Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	12.552	Total Area (sq m)	125519.93
Central Grid Reference	NS4214SW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 2km west of Rankinston.		
Interest			
Habitat & botanical interest			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site is predominantly comprised one a waterbody, with surrounding grassland, trees and scrub around the boundary. A single building is present to the northwest.• Willow carr and wet meadow• This site is otherwise surrounded by agricultural fields and scrub to the south.• Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of the site.• 355 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:			

- six records listed on Schedule 1 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
 - *greenshank, merlin, red crossbill, ruff*
- four records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
- 95 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, smew and yellowhammer*
- a further 22 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, skylark, linnet and song thrush*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms.
- Most of this LNCS comprises open water, however there may be limited opportunity for small-scale tree planting on grassland margins. Limited woodland planting will diversify current habitats, creating new opportunities for diversity.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	7.002	Total Area (sq m)	70019.77
Central Grid Reference	NS6927NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately adjacent to Muirkirk.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site comprises a woodland dominated by downy birch, with ash, aspen, oak, roan, willow, holly, wild cherry, crab apple and hawthorn present. The understory varies, but includes fern, creeping soft grass, creeping bent, wood sorrel, purple moor grass, raspberry, creeping buttercup, daisy, rosebay willowherb, cocks foot, nettles, cleavers, meadow foxtail, germander speedwell, wild strawberry, butterbur and Yorkshire fog.A small hardstanding car park is present within the west of the site allowing and encouraging access to the woodland.			

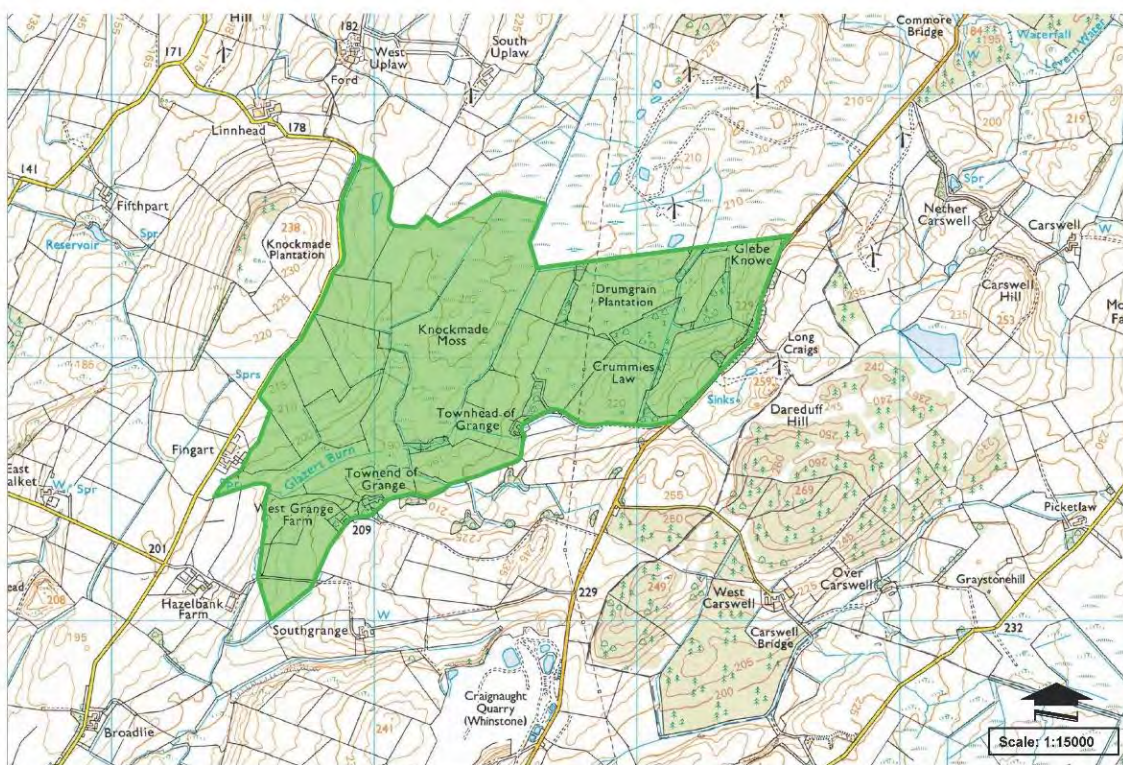
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified four records of terrestrial mammals including two records of bats in 2005 and 2015, one record of an otter in 1991, and one hedgehog in 2019 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 191 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included four records of barn owl which are listed on Schedule 1, 51 records of species listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll and woodcock) and 23 further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, song thrush and spotted flycatcher).

Protected Species

- The woodland has potential for a range of protected species such as bats, nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles.

Management

- Roads surrounding this site, likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off, but the main pressure is footfall from the local population. Well-used paths were present within the woodland.
- This woodland is managed by a community group, with a welcome board providing information at the entrance which provides detailed biological information for the site.
- There is no space within this existing site for tree planting.
- Any management plans for this woodland should be conducted in conjunction with the local community group which manage this site.

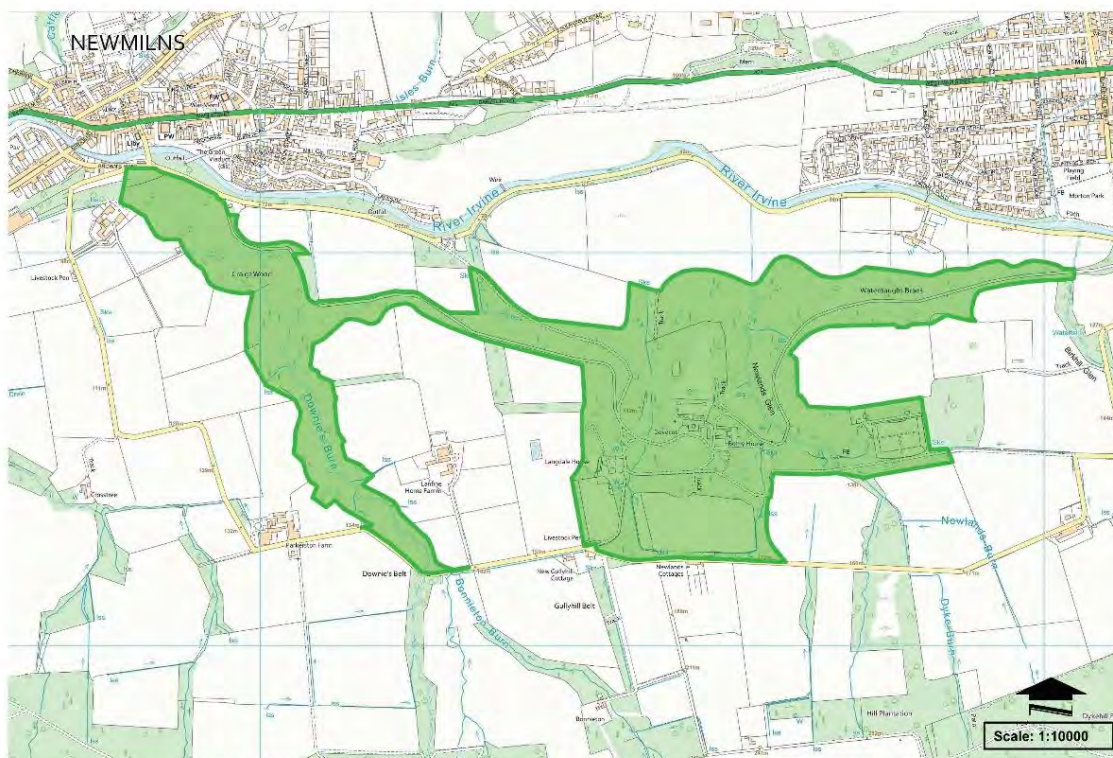


Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	159.764	Total Area (sq m)	1597642.28
Central Grid Reference	NS4453SW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 2km east of Lugton.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises agricultural farmland in the north and east, bog or wetland in the centre with scrub to the east and commercial plantation to the west. The site is bordered to the west by Knockmade Moss road and a minor road leading to houses along the south of the site with leads to Kingston Road along the east boundary. Glazert Burn watercourse crosses through the site.			

- Surrounding land uses comprise similar habitats, including scrub, agricultural fields, commercial plantation and windfarm is to the north.
- Data provided by SWSEIC included one record of one soprano bat record in 2005 within 1km of this site.
- SWSEIC provided 13 records of birds within 1km of this site. This included 4 records of birds listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, curlew, house sparrow, kestrel), and 2 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (spotted flycatcher and song thrush).
- Data also included a record of small heath.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Tree planting could be considered within the agricultural grasslands within the east of the site, but there is existing plantation to the west and scattered woodlands elsewhere.



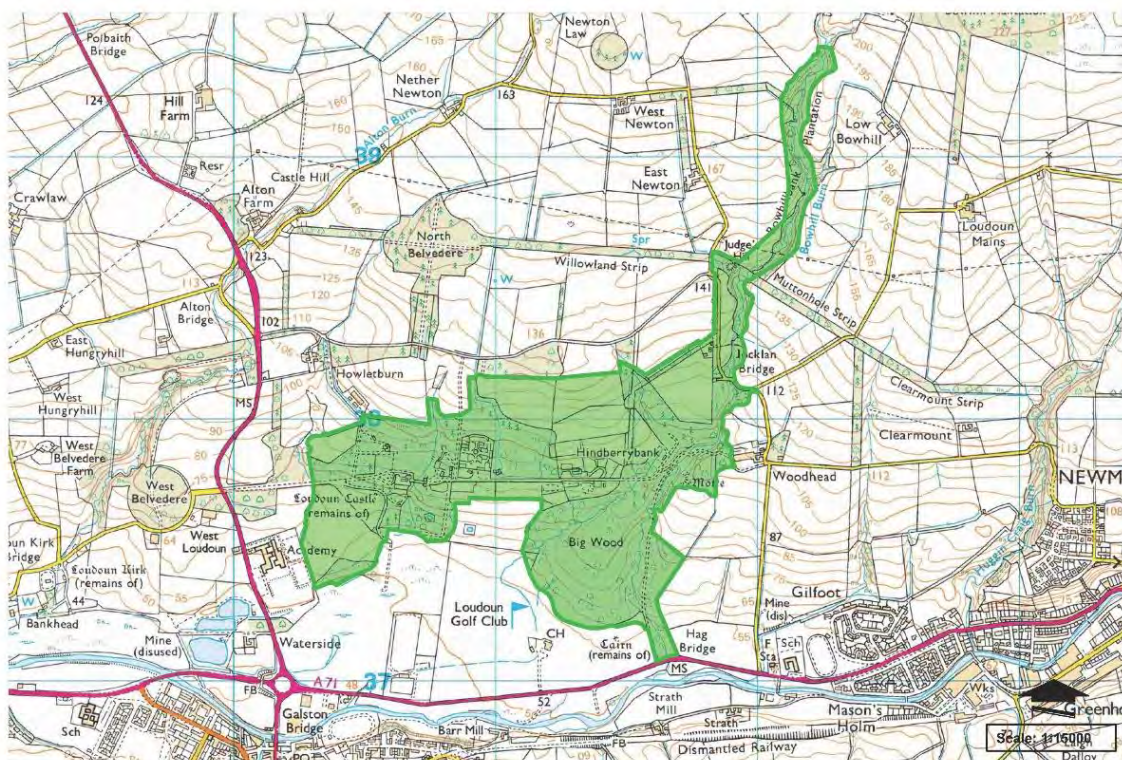
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	72.088	Total Area (sq m)	720880.55
Central Grid Reference	NS5536NW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately south of Newmilns.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site includes a mix of broadleaf woodlands and open, managed grasslands. There is a network of paths present within the site as well as Lanfine House, a watercourse, Newlands Burn. This watercourse connects to the River Irvine. A minor road surrounds the site, with surrounding land use predominantly fields, with Newmilns to the north. 			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 20 records of terrestrial mammals including one record of otter from 1994, 14 records of pipistrelle, common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle from 1987 and 2015, one record of red squirrel from 2000, three records of brown hare from 2000 – 2015, and one record of hedgehog dated 2000, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 665 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - three records of species which are listed on Schedule 1
 - quail, red crossbill and barn owl)
 - 156 records listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, barn owl, wood warbler and yellowhammer
 - 97 further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- The site is generally well used by the public for dog walking, which likely exert some pressures on the site and agricultural run-off from neighbouring farms.



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Primary Habitat Type

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

116.980

Total Area (sq m)

1169797.86

Central Grid Reference

NS5137NW

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat information

- High quality deciduous and mixed woodlands good for birds
- Wooden glen and a marsh area rich in aquatic life

Habitat & Biodiversity

- The broadleaf semi-natural woodlands within the east of the site included tree species such as oak, sycamore, ash, downy birch, hawthorn, elm, horse chestnut, rowan, willow, with an understory of ferns, nettles, false oat grass, tufted hair grass, soft rush, bluebell, heath bedstraw, common reed, horsetail, bramble, hedge woundwort, red campion, creeping bent, rosebay willowherb, cocks foot, gorse, dog rose, wood sorrel, enchanted nightshade, horsetail and dog's Mercury. Climbers such as ivy and honeysuckle were also present. Parts of this woodland were very wet underfoot with very dense vegetation.

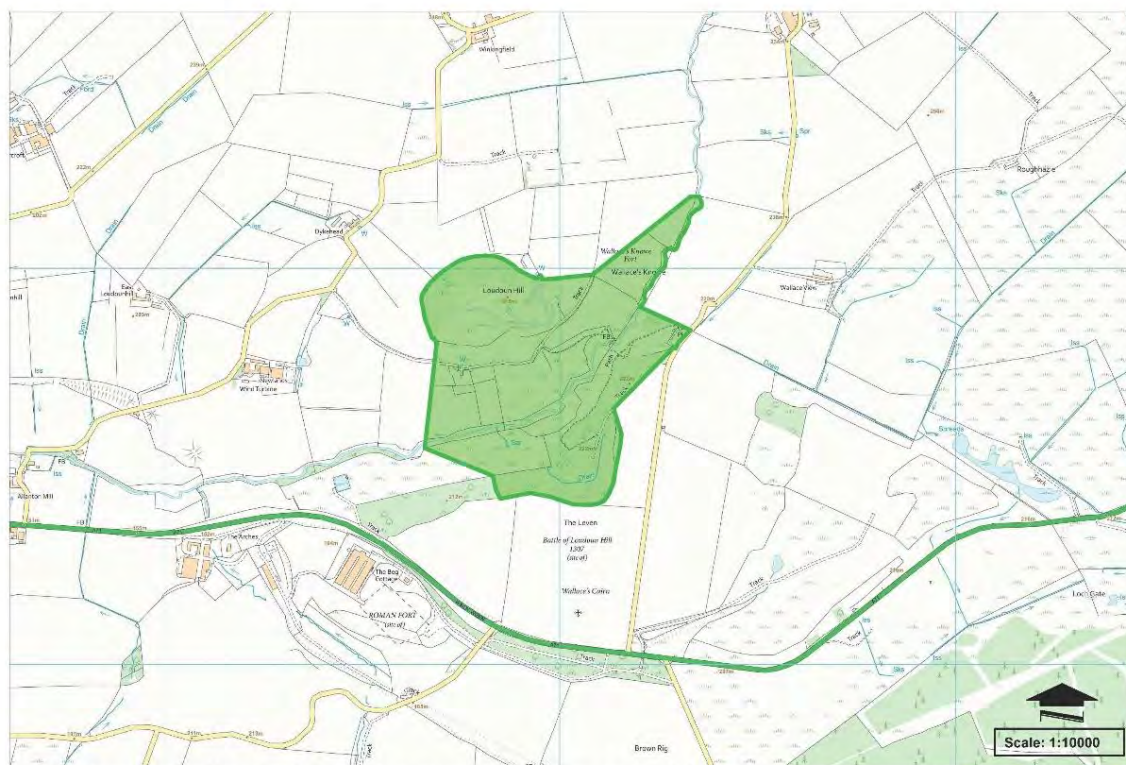
- A watercourse, the Bowhill Burn, flows through the woodland within the east of the site. This watercourse had rocky pools and mud to rock banks.
- Two small areas of coniferous woodland plantation were present within the east of the site. Sitka spruce dominated, though ash, sycamore and beech trees were present at the edges. The forest floor was far sparser, though species increased wood sorrel, fern, ivy and enchanted nightshade.
- The broadleaf semi-natural woodlands within the west of the site included tree species such as sycamore, birch, ash, oak, horse chestnut, hazel and hawthorn, but due to restricted access, direct access to the woodland was not possible therefore the understory and ground flora are unknown.
- Small areas belonging to Loudoun Academy grounds and the public leisure centre are present within the west of the site. This includes an area of amenity grassland and two sports pitches.
- The southwest of the site is comprised of a mosaic of marshy grassland around a watercourse and poor semi-improved grasslands, with three small broadleaf semi-natural woodlands. The marshy grassland was dominated by meadowsweet, with common reed and tufted hair grass, rushes and nettles present. The poor semi-improved grasslands comprised perennial rye grass, Yorkshire fog, creeping thistle, broadleaf dock, tufted hair grass, dandelion and creeping buttercup. The watercourse in this area appeared to be stagnant at the time of survey.
- Various grasslands make up the remainder of the site, with a small section of golf course (amenity grassland) extending into the east of the site, improved grassland fields and poor semi-improved fields in the east and north. The large grasslands within the north of the site were grazed by sheep.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 13 records of terrestrial mammals including seven records of bats between 1999 and 2014, two records of otter in 1991 and 2015, one record of red squirrel in 2012, two records of hedgehog in 2008 and one record of brown hare in 2019 within 1km of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 612 records of birds within 1km of this site. This included five records of species listed on Schedule 1 (kingfisher and barn owl), 183 records of species listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, and yellowhammer) and 97 further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow).
- The data also included one record of a common frog, and nine records of common darters.

Protected Species

- The watercourse within the east of the site was considered suitable for foraging and commuting otter, and likely hosted resting sites, though no resting sites nor evidence of otter were identified.
- Evidence of squirrel was identified within the coniferous woodland plantations and at the edge of the broadleaf semi-natural woodland in the east of the site. Many chewed cones and feeding stations were found.
- Habitats within this site provide suitable habitat for commuting, foraging and roosting bats, as well as various other protected species including badger, nesting birds, amphibians, reptiles and a range of invertebrates.

Management

- The golf course, farming practices, school and development of the residential housing place various pressures on this site including development and runoff.
- The woodlands in the east of the site are also well-used by dog walkers which likely exert some pressures on this site.
- Consideration could be given to planting trees within some of the grasslands within the north and east of this site if undertaken in an appropriate manner, with biodiversity in mind. The wet grasslands in the southwest however should not be planted with trees.
- The woodland is well protected from intrusion by livestock using fencing which should be maintained to preserve the woodland .



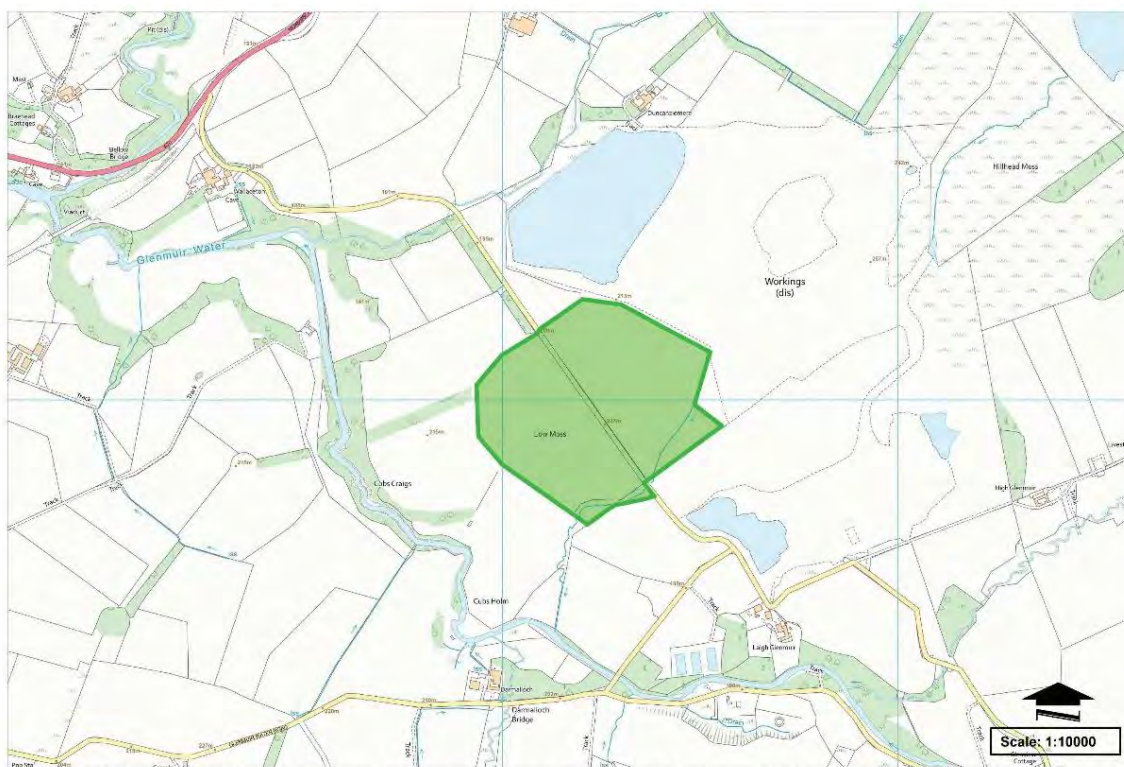
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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	30.981	Total Area (sq m)	309810.08
Central Grid Reference	NS6037NE		
Context	The site is located in the north-east of East Ayrshire, approximately 200m east of Priestland.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Loudon Hill, a highly prominent volcanic plug, is a valued recreational, cultural and historical feature in East Ayrshire. This site comprises of large, open areas of grassland. There is a wooded area to the west of the site and River Irvine runs through the centre of the site.Surrounding land comprises agricultural farmland, forestry plantation, A71 road to the south. Allanton Plains & Avon Water LNCS (Site 53, page 14) is present to the south of the site.Data provided by SWSEIC identified two records of badger from 2016 within 500m of this site.			

- SWSEIC also provided 253 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 9 records of listed on Schedule 1
 - barn owl, fieldfare, merlin, peregrine and redwing
 - 72 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lesser redpoll, ring ouzel and yellowhammer
 - a further 26 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, spotted flycatcher and song thrush
- Data also included records of small heath and white-footed furrow bee.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be required to complete a LNCS assessment, identify any areas suitable for tree planting, or which required management to protect.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms, and pollution from the minor roads.
- This site offers some tree planting opportunities in the agricultural fields.


Primary Habitat Type

Mires and Heaths

Total Area (ha)

22.832

Total Area (sq m)

228319.54

Central Grid Reference

NS6120NW

Context

The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 1km east of Meikle.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

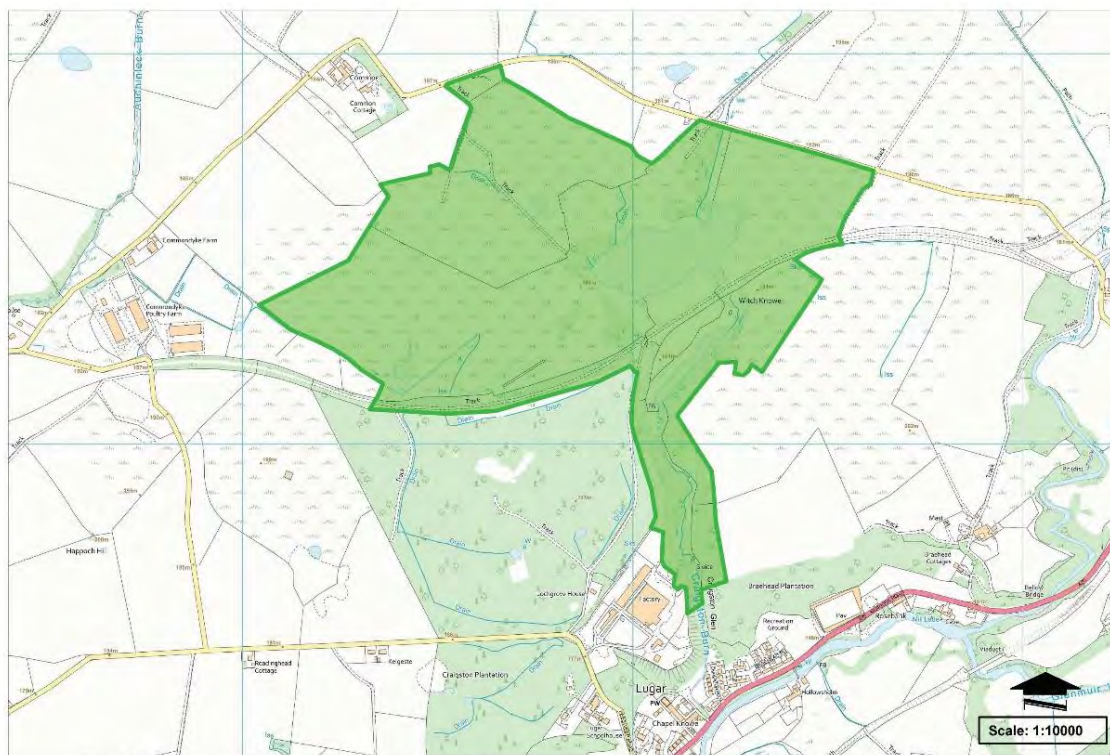
Habitat information
Habitat & Biodiversity

- This site comprises an area of upland habitats of raised bog and grassland. A minor road runs through the centre of the site with an excavation site to the south.
- Surrounding land uses comprise of areas of agricultural fields, areas of scrub and woodland to the north, east and west. Glenmuir Water is present to the west, with Glenmuir Water: Lugar to Kyle Castle LNCS (Site 86, page 122) to the west. Minor roads are present to the north and south and there are scattered residential buildings.

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991 and two brown hare record in 2019 within 500m of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 140 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included one record of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2, 29 records of birds listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lesser redpoll, swift and woodcock) and 26 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher).
- The data also included five records of common frog, two records of common lizard, three records of common toad, one record of palmate newt, common darter, large heath, scarce grass-veneer, small heath, small pearl-bordered fritillary and true beetle.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Given that this is an upland habitat, with raised bog, planting trees is not recommended for this site.
- Agricultural run-off from the surrounding fields may exert some pressures on this site, and pressures from the roads running through the site.



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Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	88.055	Total Area (sq m)	880548.39
Central Grid Reference	NS5822SE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, immediately north of Lugar.		
Interest	Habitat, biodiversity and Ornithological interest		
Designation Purpose	Nature Conservation		
Habitat information	<p><u>Habitat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site comprises a mosaic of grassland habitats, with a woodland in the south and four waterbodies of varying sizes in the centre • Waterbodies are connected by Craigston Burn • Open water, swamp, mire, semi-improved grassland and scrub habitats • Includes Craigston Glen, with its scrub and grassland • Site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) 		

Biodiversity

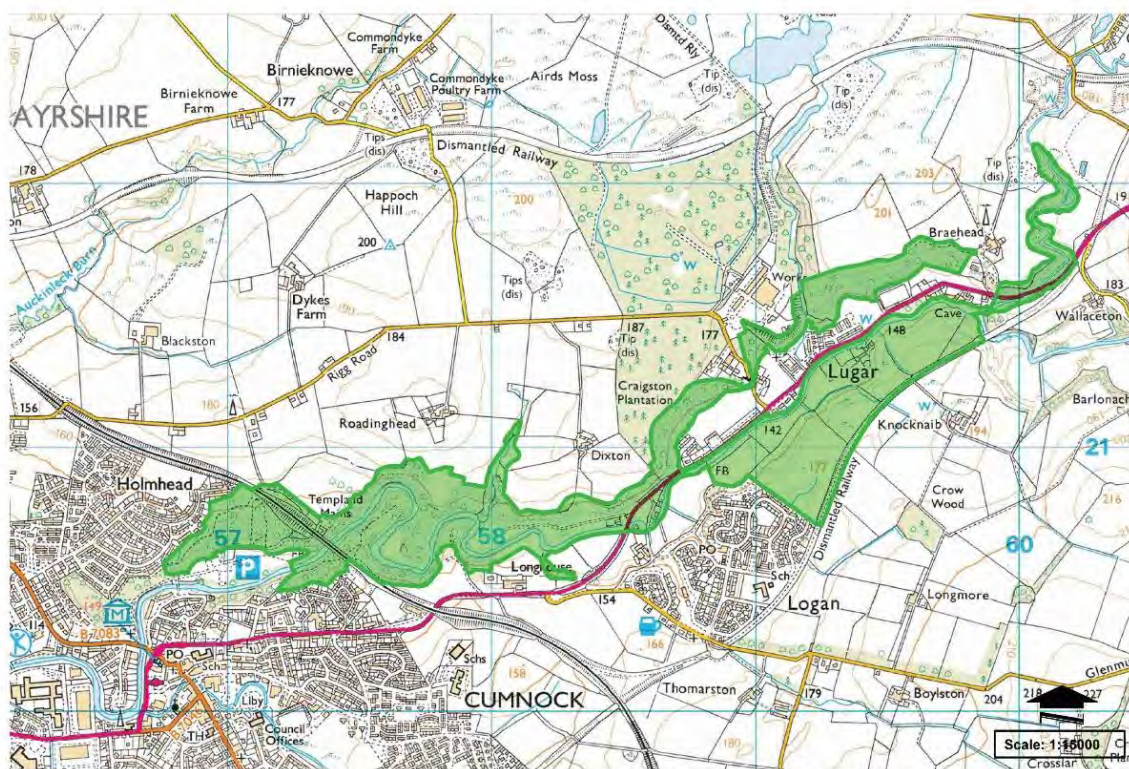
- SWSEIC recorded sightings of Schedule 1 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981), Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) species and Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species within 500m of site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 1000 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes
 - 30 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981),
 - *fieldfare, hen harrier, hobby, merlin, red crossbill, barn owl, marshy harrier and whooper swan*
 - ten records of species listed on Schedule 2
 - *greylag goose and goldeneye*
 - 230 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit and woodcock*
 - 124 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*
- Invertebrates records, include – Including Dingy Skipper, Small Heath and true beetles
- Broadleaf semi natural woodland species rich, including - silver birch, beech, hawthorn, ash, sycamore, willow and hazel, while the understory contains species such as creeping bent, raspberry, nettles, gorse, cocks foot, rosebay willowherb, fern, wild strawberry, red campion, cleavers, broom, marsh orchids and St John's wort.
- Neutral grasslands rich in species, including - Yorkshire fog, tufted hair grass, false oat grass, soft rush, perennial rye, creeping thistle, white clover, cocks foot, lady's bedstraw, creeping buttercup, crested dogs tail, knapweed, greater stitchwort, horsetail, oxeye daisy and sow thistle.
- Marsh grassland species rich, including - spart flowered rush, false oat grass, meadowsweet, hogweed, soft rush, creeping thistle, curled leaved dock, Yorkshire fog, cleavers, creeping buttercup, ragged robin, lady's bedstraw, marsh thistle, heath bedstraw and knapweed, and was therefore also species-rich
- Wet heath / acid grassland - deer grass, cross leaved Heather, tormentil, heath spotted orchid, wavy hair grass, ling heather, marsh bedstraw, willow, meadowsweet, soft rush, hares tail cottongrass, gorse, marsh cinque

Protected Species

- The mosaic of habitats present within this site provide suitable habitat for a wide range of protected species, notably a wide range of bird, amphibian, reptile and invertebrate species.
- The woodlands in the south of the site may provide suitable commuting, foraging and roosting habitat for bats, which would likely utilise the wetland habitats within the site for foraging.
- The watercourse and waterbodies likely provide suitable habitat for foraging and commuting otter, as well as resting site opportunities in the secluded sections of the watercourse in the south of the site.

Management

- This site should be safeguarded from further encroachment of development from the industrial site to the south, and farming practices to the north.
- Much of this site is not currently wooded, but the habitats are diverse and important in their own right so are not considered suitable for tree planting. Natural succession of the scrub areas will likely lead to woodlands forming in the future, but this should be allowed to progress naturally given the currently highly diverse nature of this site.

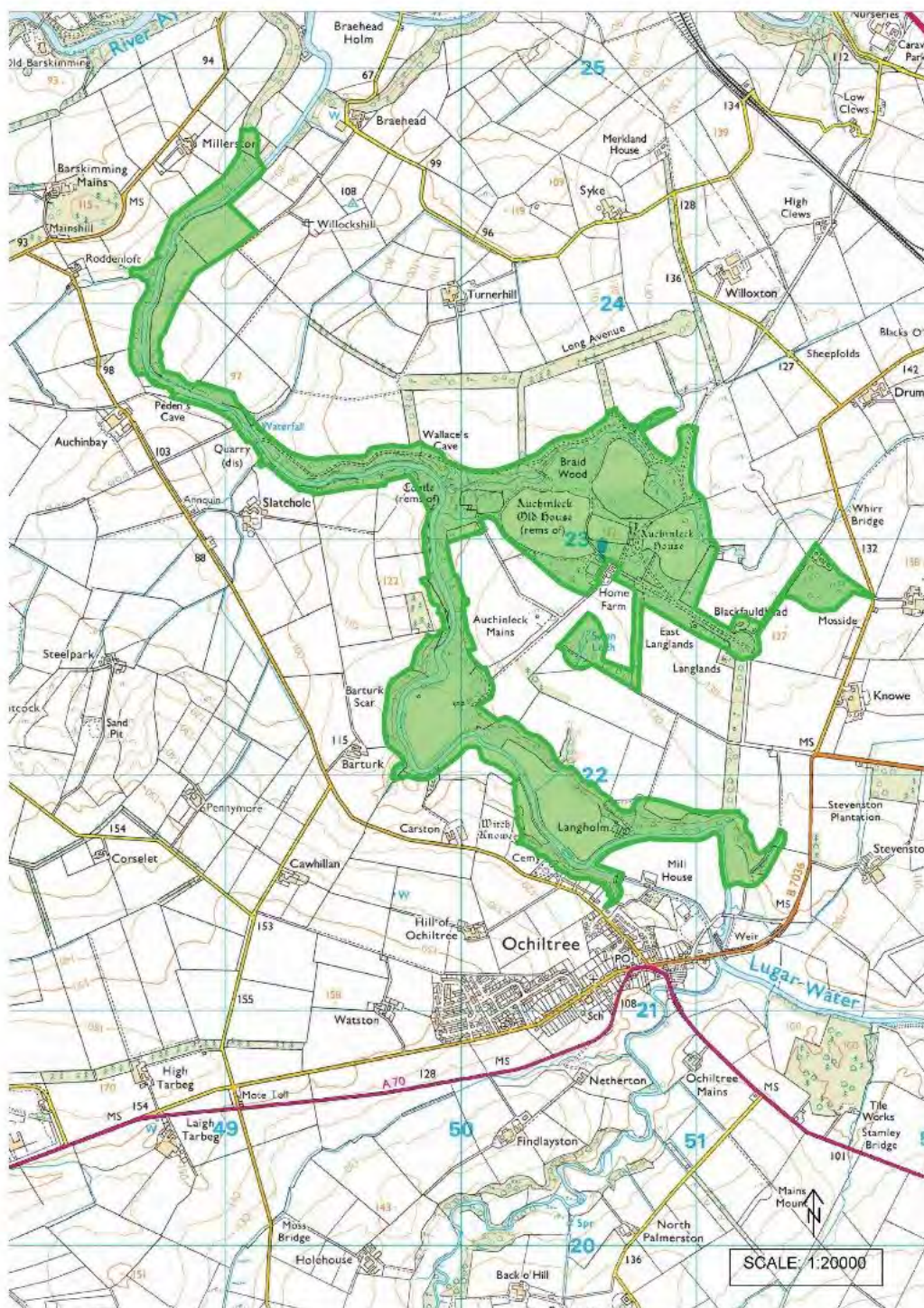


Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	100.855	Total Area (sq m)	1008550.94
Central Grid Reference	NS5921SW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, immediately adjacent to Cumnock and Lugar.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">From a review of available aerial imagery, this site is comprised of woodland, scrub, scattered trees and large areas of grassland of various uses. Several man-made features are present within this site including a railway line, the A70 and several minor roads leading from the A70, and a small number of private houses and gardens.Surrounding land uses comprise of agricultural fields, industrial businesses, two settlements, commercial forestry, and natural woodlands.			

- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, however this site was not selected for a site survey.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 21 records of terrestrial mammals including 15 records of bats between 2000 and 2016, four records of otter in 1991, one record of badger dead on the road in 2018, and one record of red squirrel in 2004 within 1km of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 6700 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 75 records of birds listed on Schedule 1
 - *kingfisher, merlin, red crossbill, barn owl and whooper swan*
 - 7 records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 1,545 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and a further 36 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*
- The data also included one record of a common toad, one of a common frog, one of a common lizard, and 20 invertebrate records including large heath, small heath and true beetles.

Management

- Due to the proximity of two settlements, and known presence of paths and a park within the site, this site likely under pressure from recreational use by the local population.
- The A70 and several minor roads are present within the site or border the site and may apply pollution pressures from run-off. The surrounding agriculture may also cause run-off pollution pressures.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	167.938	Total Area (sq m)	1679383.39
Central Grid Reference	NS5023SW		

Context	The site is located within the centre of East Ayrshire, immediately north of Ochiltree.
Interest	
	Habitat, biodiversity, botanical and ornithological interest
Designation Purpose	
	Nature Conservation
Habitat information	
<p><u>Habitat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site generally comprises a woodland, watercourse and various grasslands. The north-western and southern legs of the site follow the Lugar Water and include the relatively narrow strip of woodland on both sides of the watercourse within the site. The north-western leg includes one improved grassland within the north, used for grazing cattle, while the southern leg includes two arable fields and small areas of improved grassland fields. The rest of the site comprises various grasslands (improved, semi-improved, neutral and marshy) surrounded by woodland. There are a small number of buildings within this area; a cattle shed, residential properties, including old and new builds and an event venue marquee. Throughout the site, the woodlands include species such as beech, silver birch, oak, ash, sycamore, hazel, hawthorn, holly and rowan. The understory varies between bare, sparsely vegetated and densely vegetated and includes species such as nettle, creeping buttercup, great wood rush, cleavers, cocks foot, broadleaf dock, soft rush, wood sorrel, dog's mercury, wild garlic, greater stitchwort, water avens, meadowsweet, vetch species, red campion, foxglove, hard fern, spiky male fern, common cow wheat and pendulous sedge. Climbers such as ivy and honeysuckle were also present. The woodlands and watercourse within the site offer potential for a wide range of protected species, particularly in the less accessible areas such as the north-western and southern legs of the site. Several large stands of rhododendron present particularly along the access track in the centre east of the site and around the unnamed tributary to Lugar Water. Japanese knotweed is also present in a single area of the centre of the site. A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI. <p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data provided by SWSEIC identified 52 records of terrestrial mammals within 1km of the site including 25 records of bats dated between 2002 and 2020, five records of otter dated between 1991 and 2019, four records of brown hare in 2015 and 2021 and 17 records of hedgehog between 2009 and 2021. SWSEIC also provided over 8300 records of birds within 1km of this site. This included: 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 records of birds listed on Schedule 1; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including: kingfisher, merlin, red crossbill and barn owl, five records of greylag goose Schedule 2 listed species; 1,675 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including: barnacle goose, black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, woodcock and yellowhammer); and 766 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 	

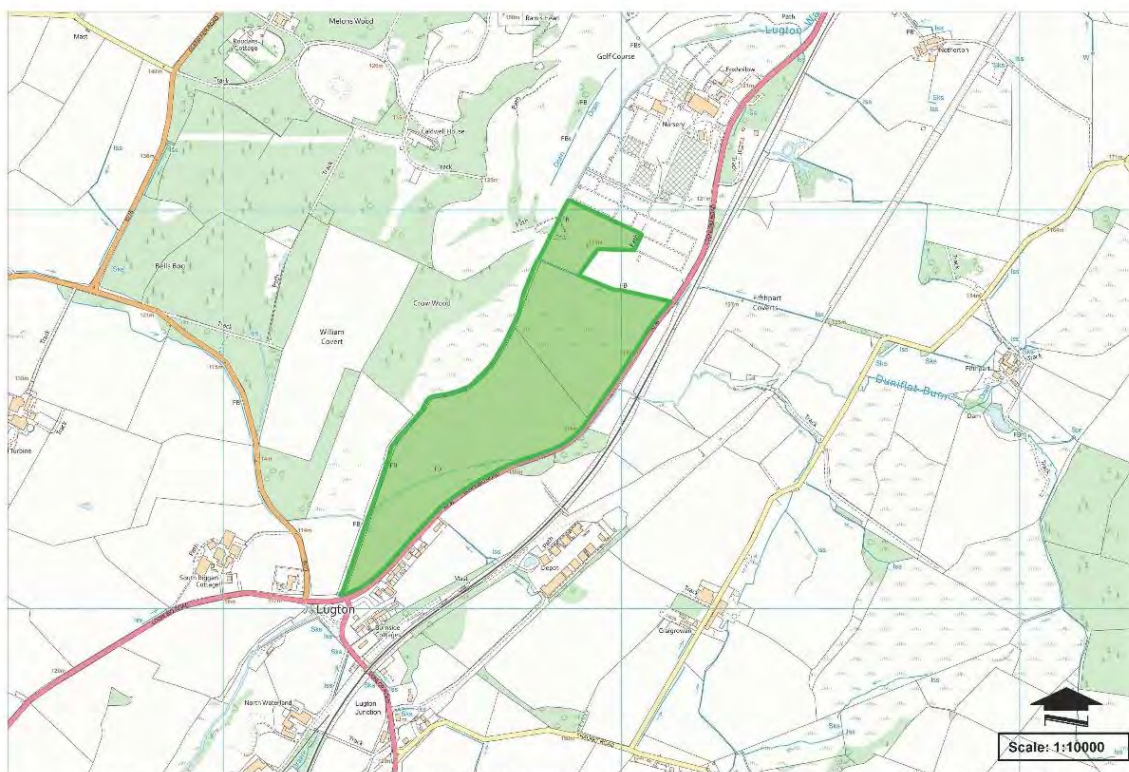
- *Including: common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow.*
- The data also included one record of a common frog, one palmate newt, 27 records of invertebrates including bird-cherry weevil, common darter and true beetles

Protected Species

- The woodland within this site contains a wide range of native trees of various ages, rocky cliffs, structures and buildings, all of which are likely to offer potential for roosting bats. The woodlands are also likely to provide suitable habitat for red squirrel and pine marten.
- The watercourses within this site offer excellent commuting and foraging habitat for otter, as well as potential for resting sites. While no resting sites were identified, this is likely due largely to the gorge created by the watercourses which provide natural shelter and protection to any otters using the watercourse, thus raising its suitability for this species.
- Many species of nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians are also likely to be present within the site utilising the various woodland and wetland habitats present.
- Grasslands within the site may offer potential foraging habitat for birds and other species such as brown hare and deer.

Management

- Tree planting within the site could be considered within the improved and semi-improved grasslands where appropriate and where it would provide biodiversity value – Suitable areas are currently used for grazing cattle, this pressure would likely need to be removed prior to any appropriate tree planting.
- Invasive species should be removed, notably the Japanese knotweed which spreads quickly.



Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	24.552	Total Area (sq m)	245523.75
Central Grid Reference	NS4153NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately north-west of Lugton.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site predominantly comprised a mosaic of improved grassland and marshy grassland, all grazed by sheep, with species such as perennial rye grass, soft rush, common reed, nettles, creeping buttercup and creeping thistle.• Small areas of scattered broadleaf and planted broadleaf trees of oak, hawthorn, beech and silver birch were present within the south of the site.• The industrial area within the north of the site was not accessed during this survey.			

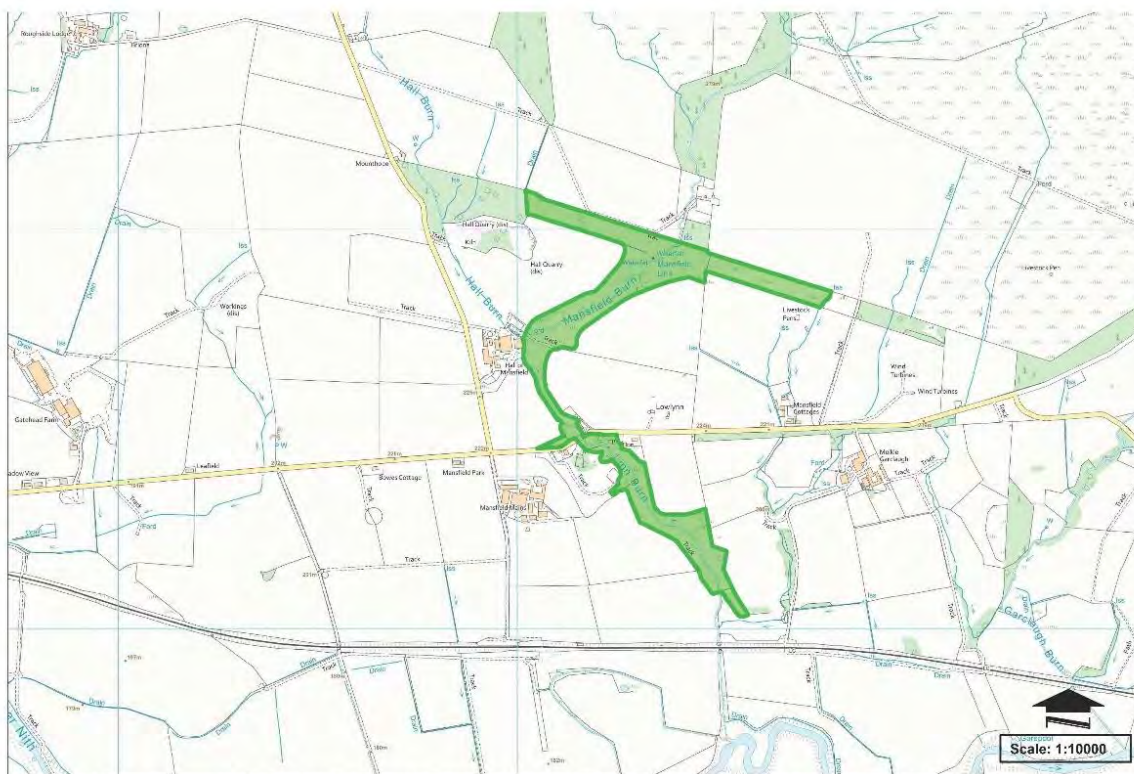
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).
- Data provided by SWSEIC included one record of a badger in 2007 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 93 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 19 records of species listed the SBL
 - black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, tree pipit and woodcock
 - and a further nine records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch and song thrush).
- The data also included one record of a common frog in 2008 within 500m of the site.

Protected Species

- The River Garnock forms the west boundary of the site and provides good habitat for commuting and foraging otter as the vegetation provides dense cover. The two tributaries within the site however are much more exposed, and both are shallow and poached by livestock, but may still provide suitable commuting habitat.
- The River Garnock is bordered by reeds and may provide suitable habitat for a few species of nesting birds, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.
- The marshy grasslands within the site may provide some very limited potential for amphibians.

Management

- Tree planting could be considered within the south of the site to extend the small areas of scattered trees and broadleaf plantations in that area.
- Grazing pressures within this site should be reviewed. A larger buffer between grazing and the watercourse could be beneficial to the River Garnock, which forms the Upper Lugton Water LNCS a short way south of this site.

**Primary Habitat Type**

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

11.865

Total Area (sq m)

118645.81

Central Grid Reference

NS6414NW

Context

The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 2.02 km east of New Cumnock.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat informationHabitat & Biodiversity

- The site consists of a watercourse surrounded by scrub and woodland, which in turn is surrounded by grassland
- Mansfield Burn flows through the site – a tributary of the Nith River.
- Predominantly surrounded by agricultural land, grasslands and infrastructure (road networks)
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Land (AWI)

Biodiversity

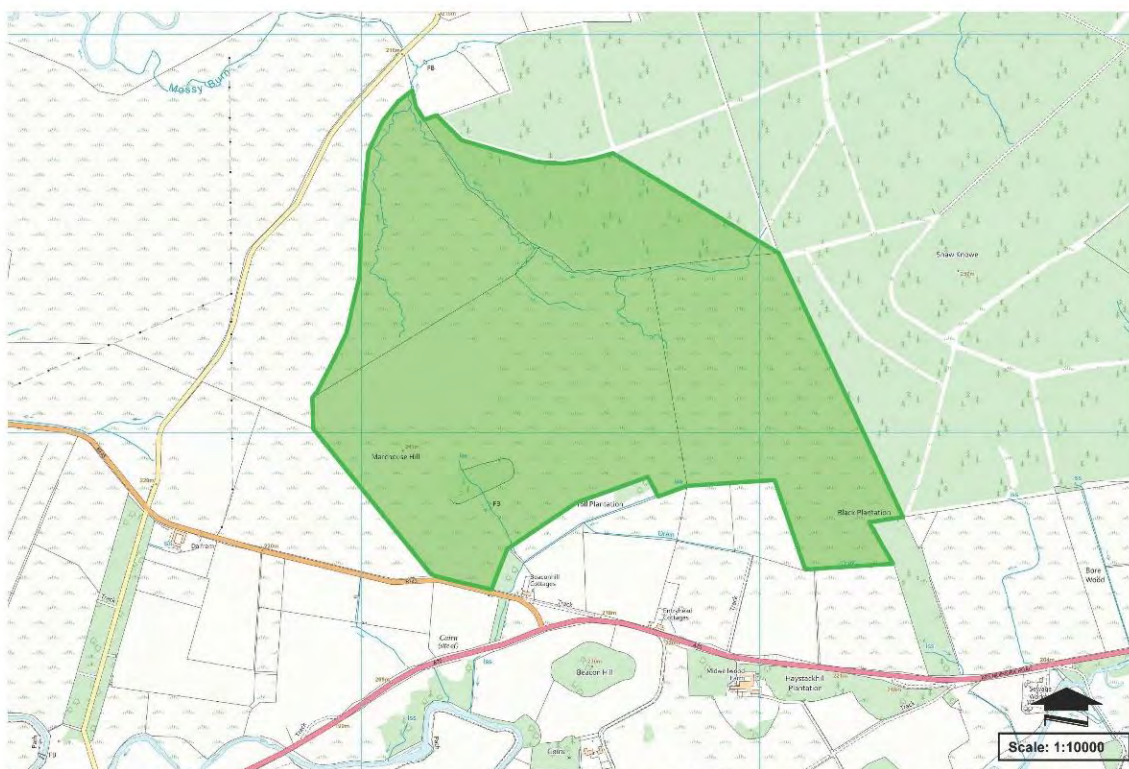
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 26 records of terrestrial mammals including 23 records of bats in 1989, 1990 and 1991, one record of otter dated 1991 and two records of brown hare dated 1997, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 225 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - four records of red crossbill, which is listed on Schedule 1
 - ten records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 59 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, ring ouzel, swift and tree pipit*
 - and a further 35 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Protected Species

- There is potential for protected species within or nearby the site.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural fields and pollution from the road network.



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Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	108.780	Total Area (sq m)	1087799.77
Central Grid Reference	NS6627SW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 900m west of Muirkirk.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site includes two large areas of wet modified bog which grades through acid grassland to marshy grassland downhill and to the south of the site. Short, well- Grazed ling heather dominated the wet modified bog habitats, with wavy hair grass, tormentil, blaeberry, cross leaved heather, hairs tail cottongrass, deer grass, purple moor grass and lichen also present within these bogs. Heath spotted orchids were also identified within this site and natural and man-made bog pools were common. 			

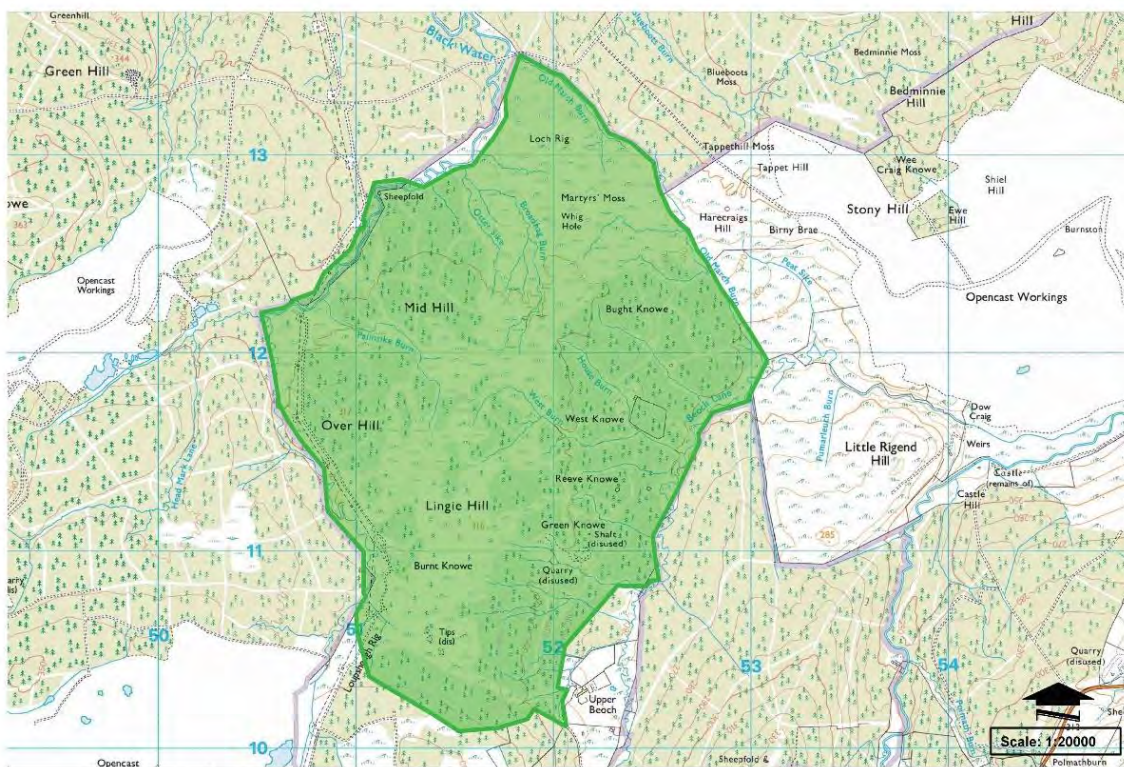
- A small, fenced mixed woodland plantation was also present within the centre of the site which included willow and sitka spruce trees.
- This site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991, one record of mountain hare in 2019 and two records of hedgehog in 2017 and 2019 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 152 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - six records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - red crossbill and barn owl
 - 36 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - black-headed gull, curlew, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing and lesser redpoll
 - 20 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - black grouse, common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher
- The data also included six records of invertebrates including large heath and small pearl-bordered fritillary.

Protected Species

- No evidence of protected species was identified within the site, though several birds were flushed as the surveyor walked through the site. This site is likely to provide habitat for a small range of protected species, including some ground-nesting birds and reptiles.

Management

- Sheep graze this site and the bog areas show evidence of prolonged grazing pressure.
- Grazing and drainage remain the main pressures for this site, though the plantation woodland within the centre of the site adds a small amount of pressure as well.
- Commercial forestry practices may indirectly impact the bog in the east of the site through changes in water movement.
- Tree planting is not recommended within this site as the bog habitats are still valuable for their biodiversity and contribution to carbon sequestration.
- Grazing pressure of this site should be reviewed and consideration should be given to removing grazing pressure, or limiting the duration or time of year this site is grazed.



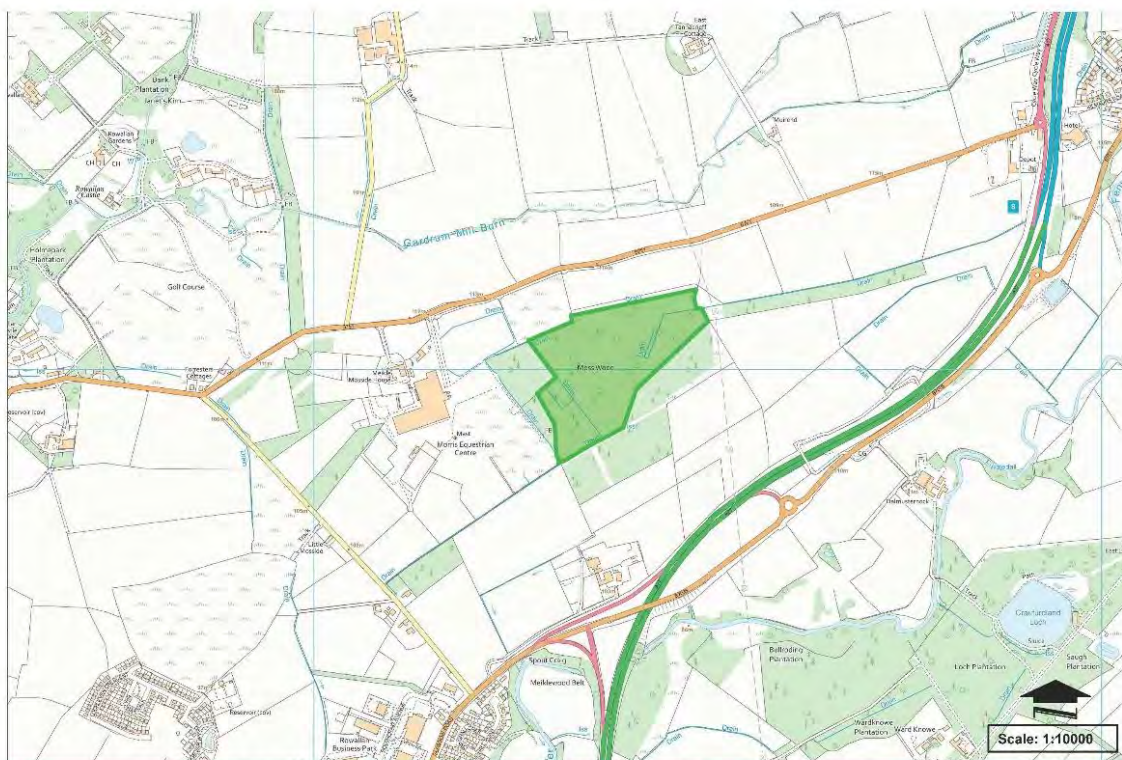
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Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	498.453	Total Area (sq m)	4984525.38
Central Grid Reference	N5111NE		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 4km south of Skares.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises an area of upland habitats including bog, heathland and commercial forestry. Areas of scrub are to the north and east boundary, and Black Water runs along the north boundary. Beoch Lane burn runs along the south and east of the site. A minor road and farm is to the south of the site.Surrounding land uses comprise of commercial forestry in all directions of the site with associated minor roads.			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991, two records of badger from 2014 – 2018 and one soprano pipistrelle record in 2016 within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 332 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 20 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
 - *barn owl and red crossbill*
 - 115 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit and woodcock*
 - and 28 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, nightjar and song thrush*
- The data also included one record of common darter.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- Given that this is an upland habitat, with areas of dry heath and blanket bog, planting trees is not recommended in most areas.
- Cognisance of the value of the LNCS should be noted and integrated into any subsequent development proposals (including those relating to renewables) and incorporate appropriate mitigation to reduce potentially significant negative impacts.
- Ensure that the requirements of the relevant and applicable LDP2 policies are met and addressed through design, layout and scale.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	9.956	Total Area (sq m)	99559.77
Central Grid Reference	NS4442SE		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, immediately north west of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A Sitka spruce plantation forms the western side of this site. The ground is typically bare, though small areas of ferns, rosebay willowherb, holly and nettles are present.Within the southwest corner of the site, broadleaf trees including birch, rowan and holly have grown within the Sitka spruce plantation. The ground was extremely wet with a moss carpet and ferns, soft rush and common reed present as well as a few Scots pine in drier areas.The majority of the site comprises a semi-natural broadleaf woodland dominated by small birch trees, and on a blanket bog of sphagnum mosses.			

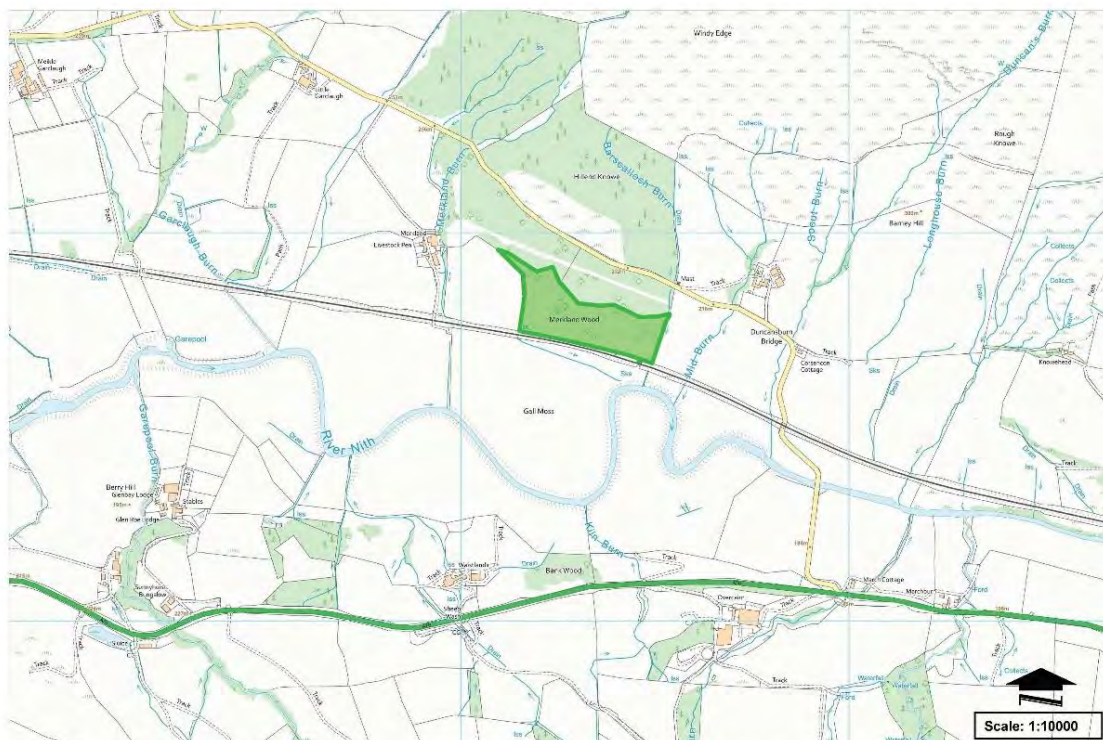
- A small area of blanket bog with scattered scrub woodland was present in the north of the site. This area included cross leaved heather, ling heather, blaeberry, purple moor grass and sphagnum mosses with younger and fewer birch trees scattered within the area.
- A short drainage ditch has been dug between the bog and coniferous plantation areas of this site. The water within this ditch is stagnant.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).
- Data provided by SWSEIC included one record of an otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 937 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 21 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *long-tailed duck and barn owl*
 - one record of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 290 records of species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *barnacle goose, black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, pochard, swift and yellowhammer*
 - A further 121 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Protected Species

- Evidence of squirrel was identified within the coniferous woodland plantations within this site. This included a small number of chewed cones.
- Habitats within this site are considered suitable for a small number of protected species such as foraging and commuting bats, nesting birds, amphibians, reptiles and a range of invertebrates.

Management

- Management within this site should be minimal to allow natural processes to continue, however the coniferous woodland should be sensitively removed and not replanted to allow the return and expansion of this rare habitat.
- The rhododendron and crashed plane within the site should be removed.



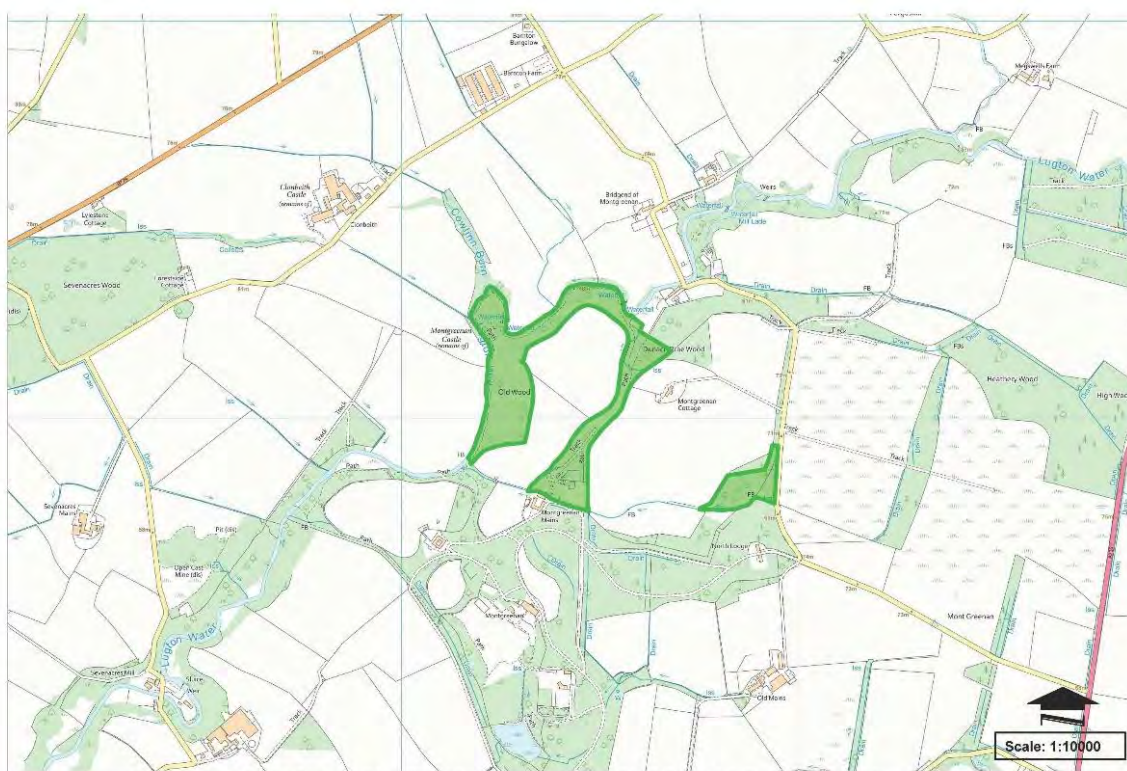
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	4.705	Total Area (sq m)	47053.41
Central Grid Reference	NS6613NW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 3.5km east of New Cumnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site is entirely wooded and separated from the Nith Floodplain LNCS (Site 77, page 179) only by the railway line on its southern boundary.• This site is otherwise surrounded by two agricultural fields to its east and west and scrub woodland to its north.• A proportion of the site (small areas within the northwest and middle sections) overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).			

- SWSEIC provided 57 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - two records of red crossbill which are listed on Schedule 1
 - six records of greylag goose which are listed on Schedule 2
 - 18 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll and tree pipit*
 - a further six records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch and song thrush*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.



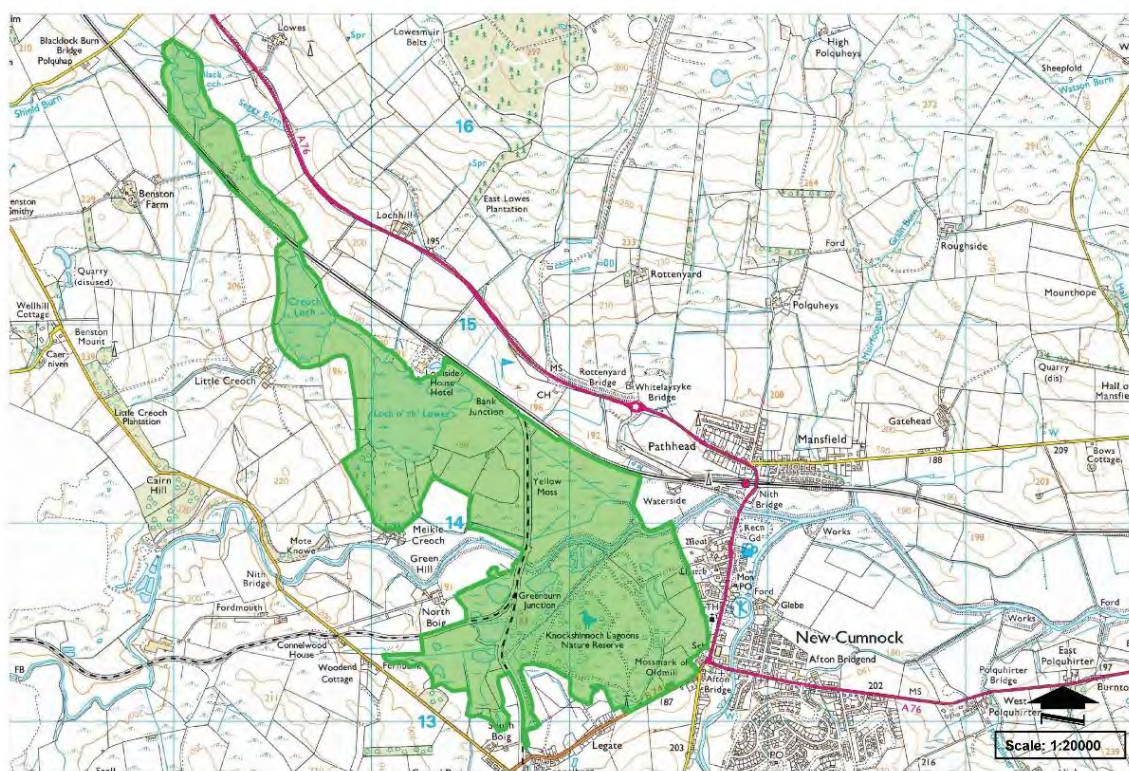
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	8.773	Total Area (sq m)	87733.75
Central Grid Reference	NS3445SW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 5km west of Stewarton.		
Interest			
Habitat, biodiversity, botanical and ornithological interest			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is comprised of broadleaf woodland, with Lugton Water running through the north of the site.Surrounding land use is predominantly agricultural fields. Several minor roads surround the site, including the B778 along the west and the A736 along the east. Areas of woodland also extends further out of the site.			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 16 records of terrestrial mammals including four records of bats between 1989 and 2020, nine records of brown hare from 2012 – 2015 and three records of water vole in 2020, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 1,300 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - four records of species which are listed on Schedule 1
 - *Including: red crossbill and merlin*
 - three records of a greylag goose which is listed on Schedule 2
 - 159 records of species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *Including: cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lesser redpoll, swift, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - 171 further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *Including: common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, lesser whitethroat, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas suitable for appropriate tree planting (to bring biodiversity benefits) or which might require management action and protection.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms, and pollution from the minor roads.
- Area directly south of the identified Local Nature Conservation Site area within the South Ayrshire Council authority area is of merit and should be appropriately managed, although, outwith the scope of this Guidance document.



Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	218.199	Total Area (sq m)	2181994.87
Central Grid Reference	NS3445SW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, immediately north of Connel Park.		
Interest			
Habitat & Ornithological			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site comprises a mosaic of grassland habitats, with a woodland in the south and four waterbodies of varying sizes in the centre. These waterbodies are connected by the Craigston Burn. This site comprises a mosaic of largely open grassland habitats, with several open waterbodies. Seggy Burn flows down the site from north to south, and River Nith and Connel Burn across the centre of the site. A railway line runs down from the northern boundary and 		

then cuts through the site. The site is bordered by the Leggate road on the south and agricultural land to the north, east and west.

- An old railway embankment crosses the site from east to west.
- Surrounding land uses comprise an industrial estate to the south, a minor road immediately north of the site, scattered woodland to the southwest and open grasslands in all other directions.
- Important migratory route for birds
- Breeding bird interest is high

Biodiversity

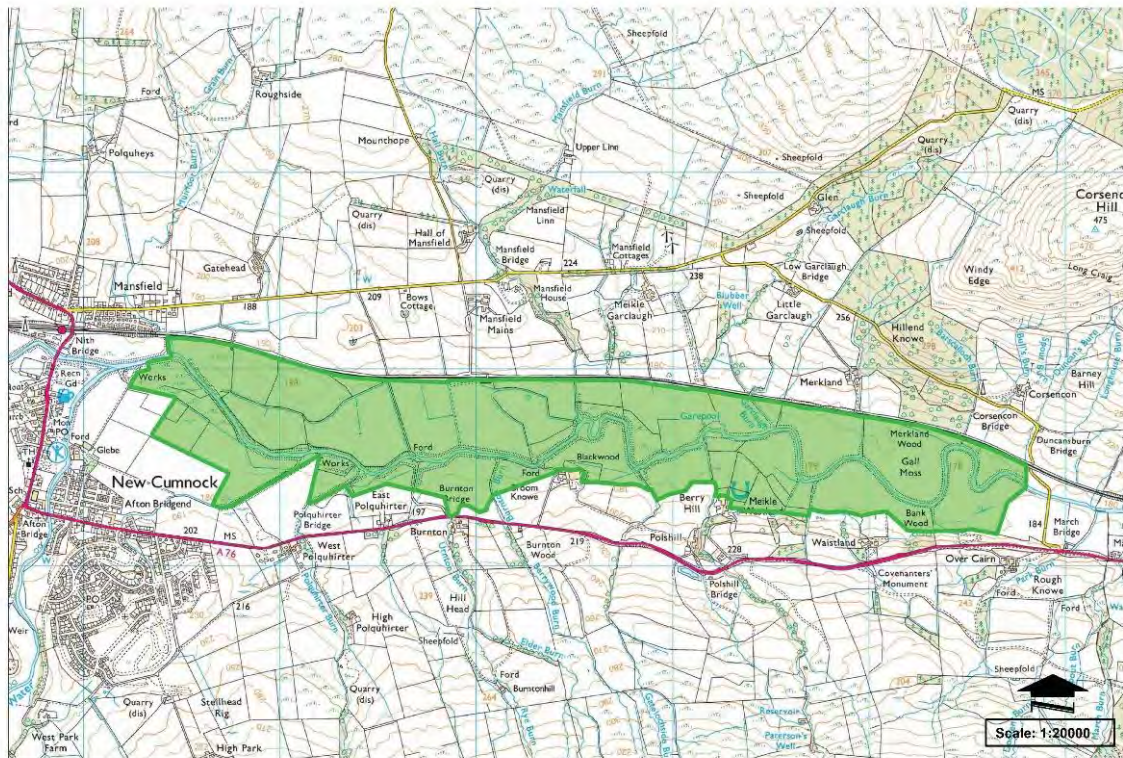
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of otter from 1991 – 1999, two records of red squirrels in 2016, three records of hedgehog from 2017 – 2019 and three records of brown hare within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided over 1637 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes
 - 40 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
 - *black-tailed godwit, brambling, fieldfare, kingfisher, little gull, long-tailed duck, merlin, red kite, redwing, ruff, scaup, barn owl, marshy harrier and whooper swan*
 - 43 records of species listed on Schedule 2 (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981)
 - greylag goose, goldeneye and pintail
 - 377 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *barnacle goose, bean goose, black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, willow tit, wood warbler, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and 129 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and turtle dove*
- The data also included records of palmate newt, common frog and ten records of invertebrates including dingy skipper, grayling, small heath, large heath, heath grass-veneer, northern mining bee, common darter and true beetles.

Protected Species

- Protected species likely occurring within or in close proximity to site

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any which might require management action or protection.



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Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	239.757	Total Area (sq m)	2397565.32
Central Grid Reference	NS6413NW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, 5m east of New Cumnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site comprises the River Nith, and small sections of Muirfoot Burn, Polquhirter Burn, Burnfoot Burn, Linn Burn, Garclaugh Burn, Garepool Burn, Merkland Burn, Mid Burn and Duncan's Burn which are tributaries of the River Nith, and surrounding grasslands and scattered trees Retains areas subject to periodic flooding 		

- Provides a good habitat for wildfowl and breeding waders
- The site is bordered by a railway to the north, the A76 road to the south and farm buildings along the south boundary. Most of the grasslands appear to be improved and grazed on aerial imagery.
- Surrounding land uses are predominantly agricultural fields and commercial forestry. LNCS Mansfield (Site 66, page 163), Garclaugh Burn (Site 4, page 110), Garepool Burns (Site 87, page 112) and Merkland Wood (Site 99, page 173) are present to the north of the site.

Biodiversity

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of an otter in 1991, two records of red squirrel in 2016 and one record of hedgehog in 2015 within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 572 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes
 - 17 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *fieldfare, merlin, red crossbill, red kite, redwing, scaup, barn owl and whooper swan*
 - 22 records of species listed on Schedule 2
 - *greylag goose and pintail*
 - 152 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *barnacle goose, bean goose, black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit and white-fronted goose*
 - and 73 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and turtle dove*
- Data records also included two records of common frog, dingy skipper, small heath, heath grass-veneer, common darter, northern mining bee and beetle.

Protected Species

- Protected species likely occurring either within or in close proximity to site

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action or protection.



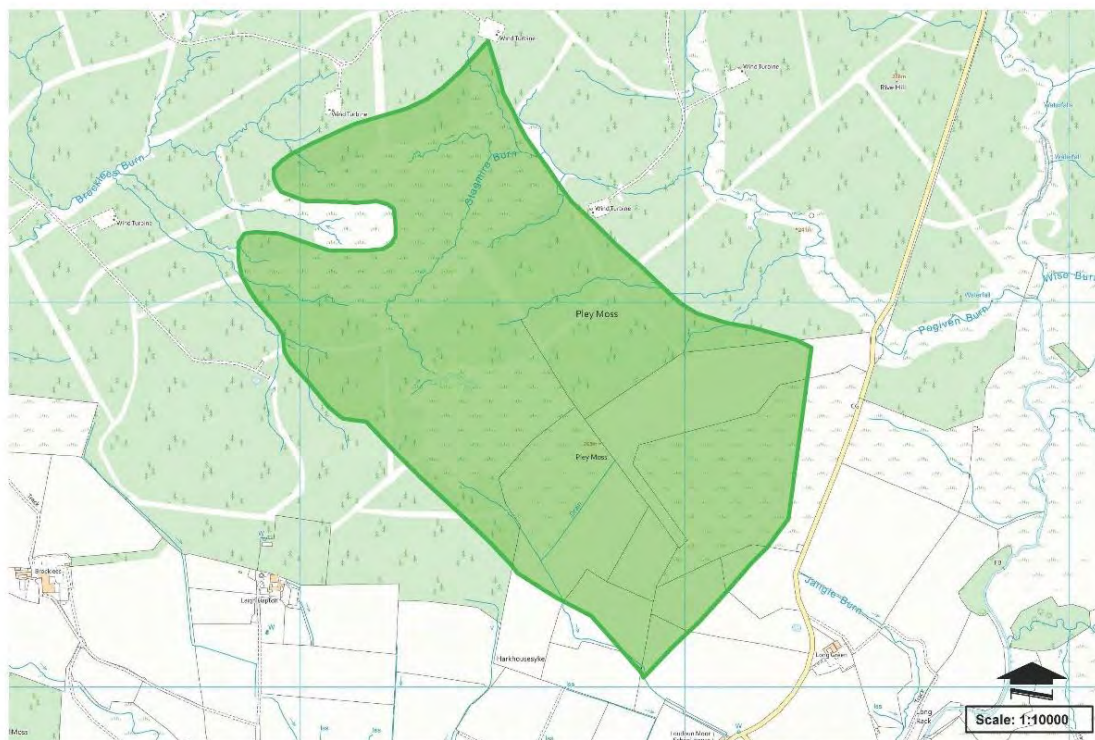
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	8.614	Total Area (sq m)	86143.20
Central Grid Reference	NS4937NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 500m north of Galston.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This site comprises a broadleaf woodland, grassland and Alton Burn.• Surrounding land uses comprise A719 road immediately east, Garden Plantation immediately north, and agricultural land to the east and south. Approximately 150 m to the south is East Holmes Wetlands LNCS (Site 29; page 104) and 250 m to the east is Loudon Castle Woodlands & Waterside LNCS (Site 13; page 146).			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified four records of otter in 2015 and one record of brown hare in 2019, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 516 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes
 - 12 records of kingfisher, a Schedule 1 listed species
 - 88 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift and yellowhammer*
 - 102 further records listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- The data also included one record of a common frog, and five records of common darters.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas suitable for tree planting or which might require management action.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms, and pollution from the minor roads.



Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	119.543	Total Area (sq m)	1195433.95
Central Grid Reference	NS5641NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 3km north of Darvel.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is comprised predominantly of commercial woodland based on aerial imagery, with grassland habitats to the south.Surrounding land uses comprise commercial forestry to the north, east and west and agricultural grasslands to the south. Whitelee Windfarm is adjacent to the north of the site with associated roads and small watercourses. Glen Water LNCS (site 96, page 120) is immediately east of the site.			

- Data provided by SWSEIC included two records of otter in 1991 within 1km of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 97 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes
 - 7 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *merlin and red crossbill*
 - 25 records of species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing and lesser redpoll*
 - and a further 13 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, tree sparrow and song thrush*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- Tree planting is not suitable for this site.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	15.743	Total Area (sq m)	157427.27
Central Grid Reference	NS4838NE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 870, south of Moscow.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The western half of the site is comprised of a broadleaf woodland, with tree species such as beech, ash, sycamore, oak, rowan, holly, willow, horse chestnut and alder present. The ground flora typically included greater wood rush, which was dense in places, fern, bluebell, brambles, cocks foot, bent grasses, foxglove, enchanted nightshade and bracken. Climbers such as ivy were also present.			

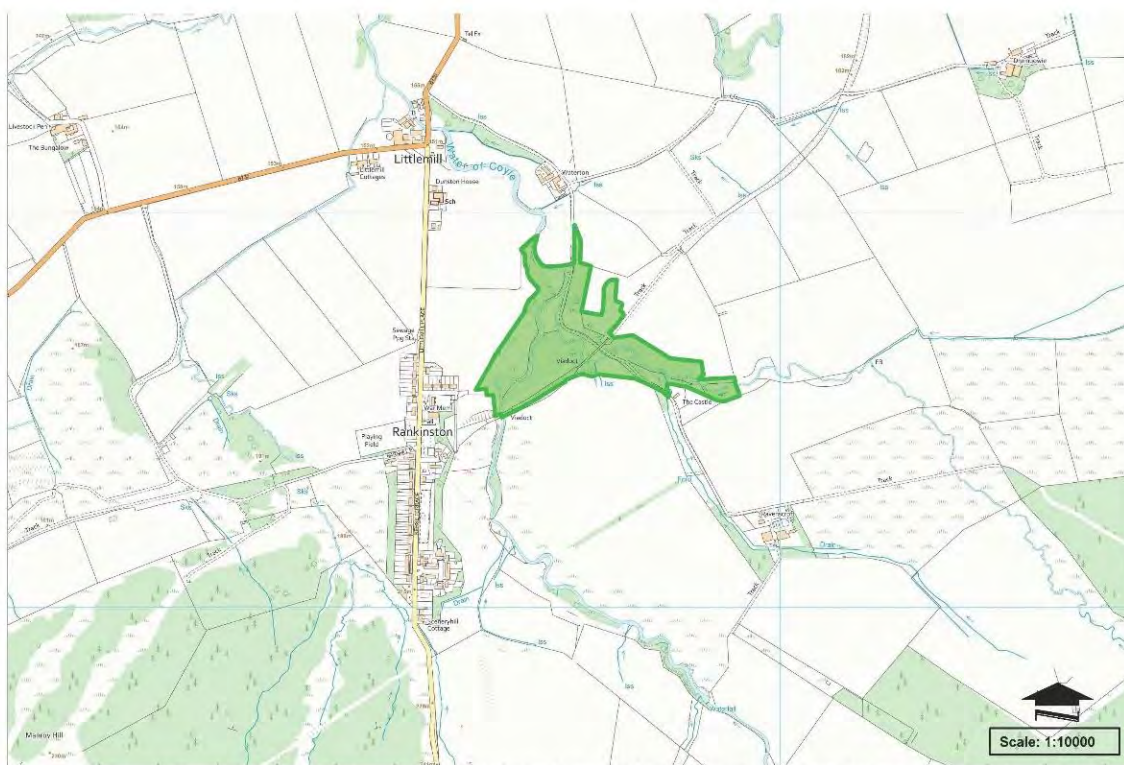
- The watercourse has formed a deep gorge within the northern part of the site that was not generally accessible, though this flattens towards the south of the site. Typically, the watercourse was shallow, with a rocky base and banks.
- Neutral grasslands were scattered within the centre and south of the site. The most species diverse of these was also the largest, and lies within the centre of the site. Species included soft rush, Yorkshire fog, hogweed, sheep sorrel, common birds foot trefoil, lancolate plantain, herb Robert, ragwort, marsh thistle, bramble, knapweed, horsetail and red campion. Hawthorn and ash trees were also scattered within this area.
- There is a small area of mixed semi-natural woodland within the north of the site, and a small area of the site has been recently planted with native broadleaf trees.
- Much of the rest of the site was improved grassland used for grazing livestock (cows and horses), or arable farmland.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified two records of terrestrial mammals including one record of an otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 564 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included 14 records of kingfisher which are listed on Schedule 1, 91 records of species listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, curlew, dunlin, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, and yellowhammer) and 108 further records of bird species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow).
- The data also included one record of a common frog, and nine records of common darters.

Protected Species

- The woodlands, watercourse and neutral grasslands are considered suitable habitat for roosting, foraging and commuting bats. The site is also connected to the wider landscape through the watercourse and hedgerows or lines of trees which would allow for commuting bats to reach this woodland.
- No evidence of otter was identified, however the watercourse was considered to be excellent foraging and commuting habitat for otter, and given the gorge and lack of human disturbance it is highly likely that it also offers resting site potential.
- Two potential resting sites were identified within the woodland. Despite both large cavities having potential for immediate use, paths leading out from them, and being large enough for a range of species, no evidence of use by any particular species was identified. Both cavities were therefore considered suitable for foxes, badger and otter.
- The woodland also provides potential habitat for a range of nesting bird species, reptiles and amphibians within the wetter areas.
- Two grey squirrels, a non-native invasive species, were observed within the woodland.

Management

- Agricultural fields within and surrounding this site likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off.
- This site is not easily accessible to the public therefore is not generally under pressure from recreational use.
- Agricultural fields within and surrounding this site likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off.
- This site is not easily accessible to the public therefore is not generally under pressure from recreational use.
- The woodland is well protected from intrusion by livestock using fencing which should be maintained to preserve the woodland.



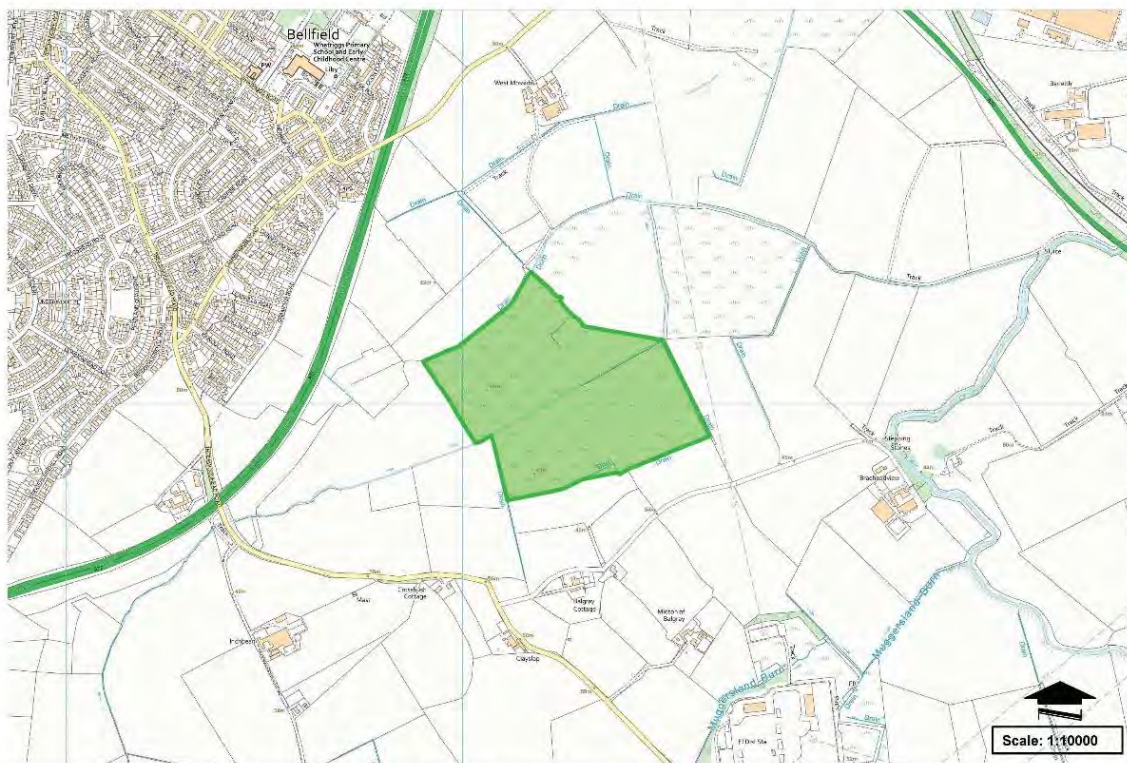
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	10.626	Total Area (sq m)	106263.39
Central Grid Reference	NS4514NW		
Context	The site is located in the west of East Ayrshire, approximately 50m east of the settlement of Rankinston.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises agricultural fields, and scrub with scattered broadleaf woodland and Water of Coyle from the south to north. A disused railway also crosses the site.Surrounding land uses comprise agricultural land with Rankinston town to the west. Public roads are to the west of the site with a small agricultural road running through the site.Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of terrestrial mammals including two records of bats in 2000 and 2015, and one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of this site.SWSEIC also provided 284 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:			

- three records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *merlin and barn owl*
- 78 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, merlin, swift, barn owl and yellowhammer*
- and 34 further records of species which are listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, European skylark, lesser white-throat, linnet song thrush and spotted flycatcher*
- The data also records of included common frog, dingy skipper, small pearl-bordered fritillary, small heath and grayling.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be required to complete a LNCS assessment, identify any are
- Agricultural fields surrounding this site, and minor roads surrounding this site likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off. The site is likely to be used by dog walkers using the disused railway road.
- It is considered from a review of aerial imagery that this site offers no tree planting opportunities as the site is predominantly comprised of scrub and naturalised woodland.



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Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	22.590	Total Area (sq m)	225902.56
Central Grid Reference	NS4435SW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 475m south of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitats within this site included two small areas of improved grassland and a larger area of poor semi-improved grassland in the south of the site. Due to the steep topography and presence of cows, direct access to the marshy grassland in the north of the site was not possible.Species present within the marshy grassland identifiable from a distance, with binoculars, included meadowsweet, soft rush, nettles, spear thistle, creeping buttercup, docs, willow and			

hawthorn. These are species indicative of both wet and nutrient-rich habitats. Cows grazed this area and are likely the source of the increased nutrient content.

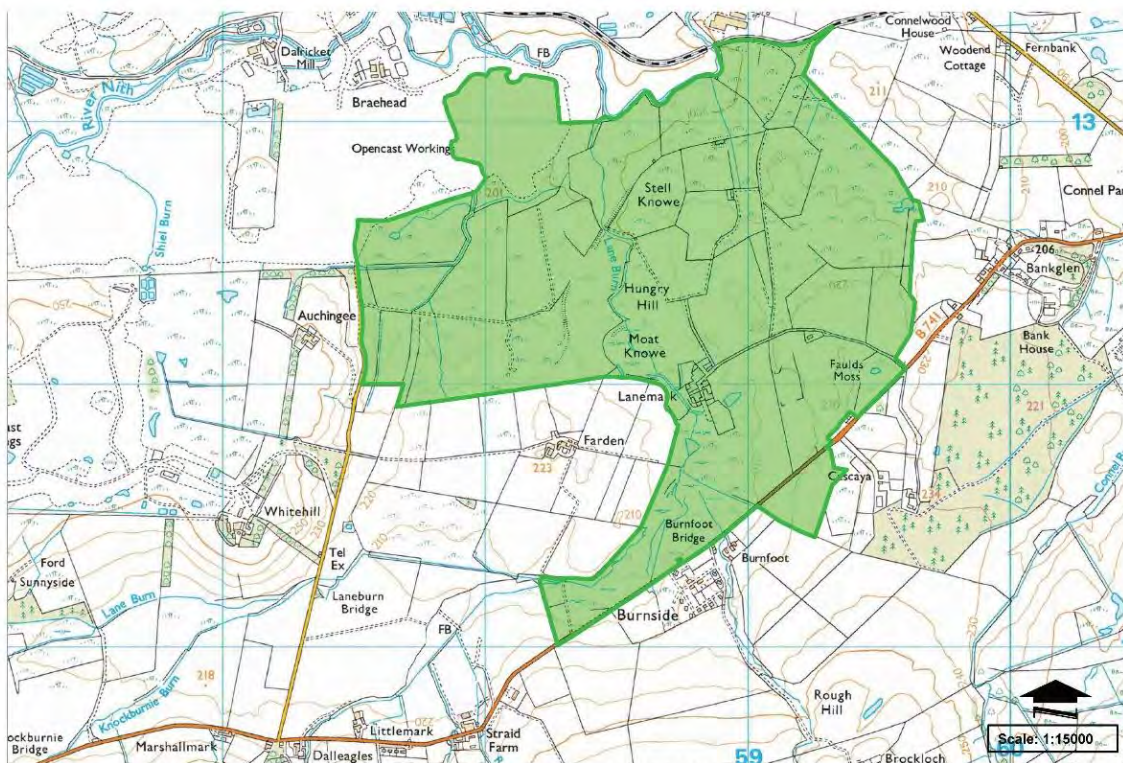
- The watercourse within the north of the site is very straight and therefore under management, rather than being natural. It was visibly flowing outside of the LNCS and is therefore assumed to be flowing within the LNCS, though this could not be confirmed.
- The site is bordered to the south by a short, intact, species-rich hedgerow with species such as hawthorn, elder, meadowsweet, bramble, beech, nettles, hogweed, ash, sycamore, hedge woundwort, honeysuckle.
- This site lies within a B-Line.
- SWSEIC provided 12 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - one record of greylag goose listed on Schedule 2
 - and three records of birds listed on the SBL
 - kestrel and house sparrow) within 500m of Riccarton Moss (Crossbush)

Protected Species

- No evidence of protected species was identified within this site, and the potential for the site to provide suitable habitat for protected species is vastly reduced due to the improved grasslands and presence of cows throughout the site.
- The presence of cows likely discourages many protected species, but this site may provide important habitat for amphibians and a range of invertebrates, while the watercourse may provide suitable habitat for water vole, or commuting and foraging otter, though further survey would be required to assess this.

Management

- Tree planting could be considered within the improved grasslands and poor semi-improved grasslands within the south of the site, but not within the marshy grassland.
- Grazing pressure should be reviewed, and following a direct survey of the marshy grassland, consideration should be given to fully removing grazing pressure from that area.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	265.157	Total Area (sq m)	2651567.12
Central Grid Reference	NS5812NE		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, immediately north of Bogside.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is a mosaic of improved, poor semi-improved and marshy grasslands, many of which are used as cattle fields.An area of broadleaf scattered trees and neutral grassland is present in the centre of the site. Species include; hawthorn, silver birch, willow, p rye, annual meadow grass, creeping thistle, creeping buttercup, lanceolate plantain, daisy, chickweed, germander speedwell, nettles, broadleaf dock, birds foot trefoil, cocks foot, yarrow, vetch, heath woodruff, meadowsweet, rowan, cuckoo flower, and cats ear.			

- A scrub and marshy grassland was present within the southwest of the site.
- Willow dominated, with soft rush and broadleaf also present.
- A marshy grassland was present in the southwest of the site, with species such as rosebay willowherb, meadowsweet, soft rush, Timothy grass, tall fescue yarrow, raspberry, creeping thistle and bullrush present. Some scattered willow trees were also present in this area. This marshy grassland had no cattle present at the time of survey and is likely not accessible to them.
- A small number of large, derelict farm buildings are present within the north of the site. Direct access to these was not possible due to the old railway line.
- Small waterbodies present.
- A small number of residential houses are present within the north and centre of the site, along with a farm yard in the west.
- The far west of the site could not be accessed directly due to cows. When assessed through binoculars, this area was considered to be an area of potential interest and direct access should be sought prior to any management decisions being made for this site.
- A watercourse flows through the centre of the site, and an old, disused railway line passes through the north of the site.

Protected Species

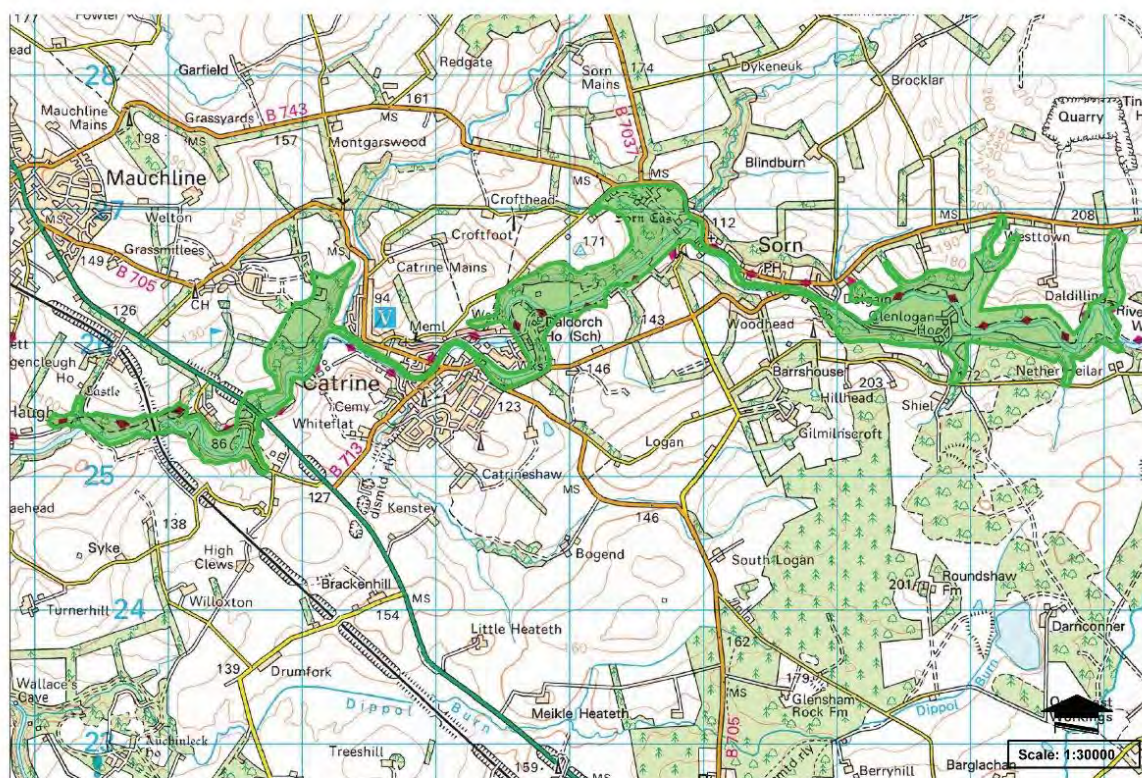
- No evidence of protected species was identified within the site. However, a fox den was identified within the neutral grassland in the centre of the site and features such as the watercourse and buildings likely offer potential habitat for protected species such as bats, otter and badger while the marshy grasslands, particularly in the southwest, provide potential habitat for common species of amphibians and invertebrates.

Management

- Grazing and agricultural practices likely exert some run-off pressures on the more diverse habitats within this site. Grazing pressures within this site should be reviewed.
- There may be some potential for tree planting within the areas currently hosting scattered broadleaf trees.

Site ID: 8

River Ayr – Damhead to Nether Heilar

**Primary Habitat Type**

Woodland and Scrub

Total Area (ha)

240.628

Total Area (sq m)

2406282.54

Central Grid Reference

NS5125SW

Context

The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, immediately adjacent to Catrine and Sorn.

Interest

Habitat

Designation Purpose

Nature Conservation

Habitat informationHabitat

- A large portion of the site overlaps woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory.
- This site predominantly comprises the River Ayr and surrounding natural broadleaf woodlands. Beech was generally the most common tree species, with many other native and naturalised species present throughout the woodlands, such as silver birch, sycamore, oak, elm, ash, Sitka spruce, yew, hazel, lime and rowan.
- The density and species of the broadleaf woodland understory varied, though generally consisted of native species, many of which are indicative of ancient woodlands such as

bluebell, ramsons, dog's mercury, water avens, wood horsetail, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, great wood-rush, scaly male fern and pendulous sedge.

- Other habitats present within the site include a relatively small area of Sitka spruce coniferous plantation woodland and various grasslands including improved grasslands predominately within the east, amenity grasslands in the centre and neutral grasslands within the centre and west of the site. The improved and amenity grasslands were dominated by perennial rye grass and various common grasses and herbs, while the neutral grasslands were dominated by meadow foxtail, soft rush and Yorkshire fog, with herbs such as creeping buttercup, white clover, horsetail, nettles, broadleaf dock and cow parsley.

Biodiversity

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 19 records of terrestrial mammals within 1km of the site including 8 records of bats dated between 1999 and 2006, seven records of otter dated between 1991 and 2017, one records of brown hare in 2018 and three records of hedgehog in 2018 and 2020.
- SWSEIC also provided over 1700 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 34 records of birds listed on Schedule 1
 - *fieldfare, kingfisher, peregrine, red kite red wing and barn owl*
 - 519 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *barnacle goose, black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit, wood warbler, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - A further 98 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *Common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- The data also included four records of common frogs, three records of common toad, 15 records of invertebrates including, large heath, small heath, small pearl-bordered fritillary, violet oil-beetle, true flies and true beetles.

Protected Species

- Various species of bats are considered highly likely to be utilising the site for roosting in structures or trees, foraging and commuting given mosaic of habitats available. The watercourse is considered of optimal habitat for otter, though no direct evidence of their presence was found. The watercourse is considered unlikely to support water vole due to the width, fast flow and depth of the watercourse, and lack of suitable banks along much of the length.
- No evidence of red squirrel was identified, however it is considered likely that this species is present within the woodlands as it is known to be present within the area.
- Evidence of birds utilising the site for nesting, foraging and commuting include grey heron, buzzard and various species of common birds.

Management

- There may be some limited tree planting opportunities within the grasslands. However, detailed surveys of these grasslands would be required as grasslands can be beneficial for biodiversity and the environment in their own right.
- Invasive species within the site, such as rhododendron should be removed.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	181.739	Total Area (sq m)	1817389.52
Central Grid Reference	NS5826SE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 2.3km west of Sorn.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site predominantly comprises the River Ayr and surrounding natural broadleaf woodlands and neutral, marshy and improved grasslands. Within the woodlands, many native and naturalised species of tree were present throughout the woodlands, such as beech, silver birch, sycamore, oak, hawthorn, ash, willow, Scots pine, alder, holly, elm, hazel and rowan. There are also a number of coniferous plantations of Sitka spruce within the central section, south of the River Ayr.			

- The density and species of the broadleaf woodland understory varied, with neutral grassland floors present particularly in the woodlands in the west, and some species indicative of ancient woodland. Floor flora included species such as false oat, tufted hair, Yorkshire fog, meadow foxtail, nettles, creeping buttercup, horsetail, soft rush, Timothy, meadowsweet, cocks foot, fern, bracken, autumn hawkbit, dandelion, raspberry, cleavers, water avens, curled leaved dock, red campion, pendulous sedge and dogs Mercury.
- Other habitats within the site include improved, poor semi improved, neutral and marshy grasslands, and small areas of dense bracken. A number of the improved fields were grazed by livestock and dominated by perennial rye grass, clover and creeping buttercup. The neutral grasslands however were more varied in terms of grass and herb composition with species such as Yorkshire fog, common bent, crested dog's tail, tufted hair grass, red campion, lesser stitchwort, ribwort plantain, yarrow, common bird's foot trefoil and oxeye daisy present.
- A large number of common spotted orchid were identified along the River Ayr Walk in the centre of the site.
- The B743 is present within the site for much of the length of the site, and a small number of private houses and gardens are also present within or immediately adjacent to the site.
- A proportion of this site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, and lies within a B-Line.
- Rich in fungi

Biodiversity

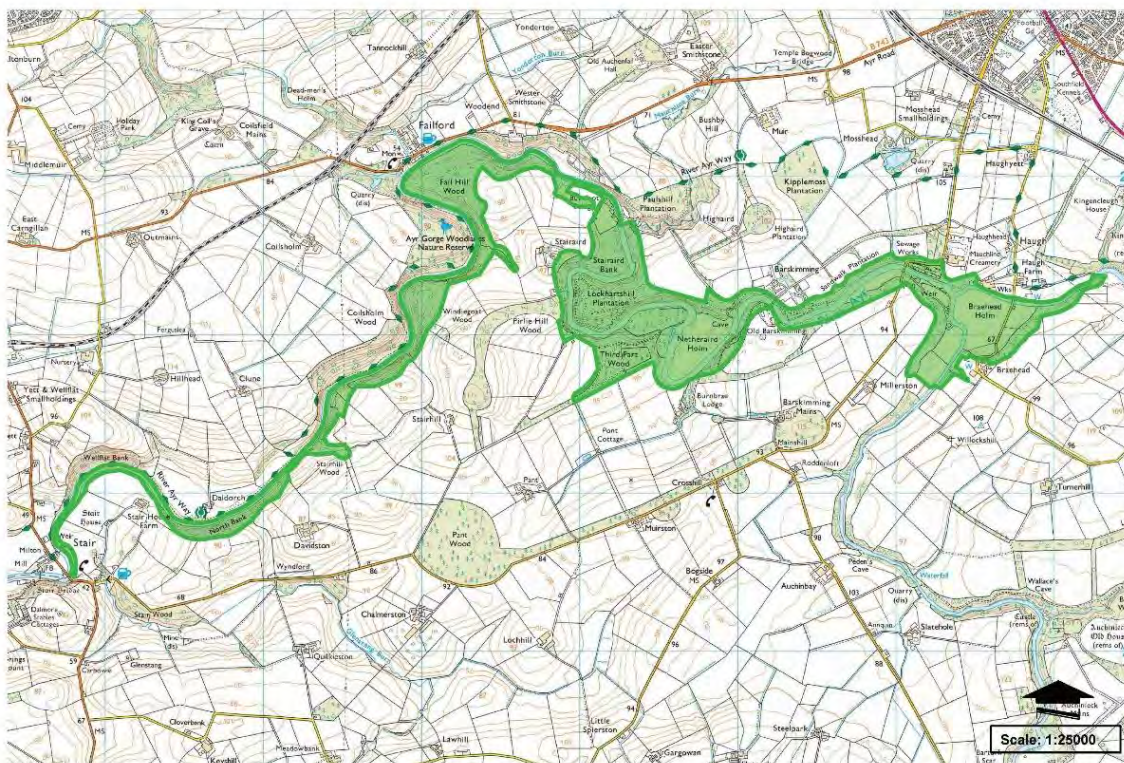
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter dated 1991 within 1km of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 611 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes
 - 21 records of birds listed on Schedule 1;
 - fieldfare, kingfisher, merlin, barn owl and osprey
 - 171 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, dunlin, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, short-eared owl, swift and woodcock
 - and a further 69 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - black grouse, common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher).
- Records of adder, four records of common lizard, three records of common frog, two records of common toad and 21 records of invertebrates including common darter, large heath, small heath and true beetles also present.

Protected Species

- Woodland, particularly within the west of the site is of various ages, therefore could offer suitable habitat for bats, while the site generally offers good foraging and commuting potential for bats.
- The watercourse provides excellent foraging and commuting habitat for otter, as well as some potential for resting sites, although none were identified. The watercourse is also considered suitable for a range of fish species.
- Evidence of birds utilising the site for nesting, foraging and commuting include grey heron, buzzard, oyster catcher, kestrel and cuckoo and various species of common birds.
- Habitats within the site are also considered likely to support reptiles and amphibians. One common frog was identified within the centre of the site.
- A number of the grasslands within this site are considered valuable to insects such as damselflies, butterflies, bees and crickets

Management

- Pollution run-off may come from the surrounding agricultural land in the west of the site and the B743 road which is fairly busy for a rural B-road.
- There may be some limited tree planting opportunities within the grasslands. However, detailed surveys of these grasslands would be required as grasslands can be beneficial for biodiversity and the environment in their own right.
- Footpath improvements



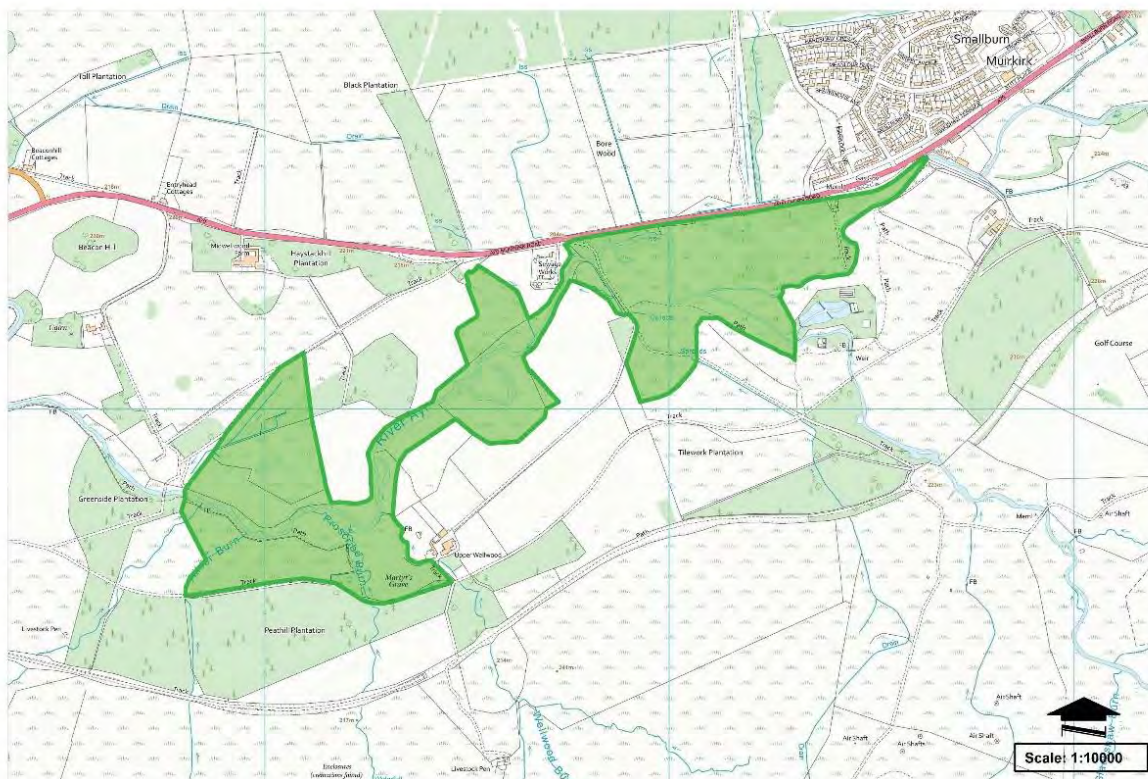
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	197.842	Total Area (sq m)	1978422.77
Central Grid Reference	NS4525SE		
Context	This site is located within the west of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.1 km west of Mauchline. As the name suggests, the site follows the River Ayr. The western half of the site also follows the South Ayrshire and East Ayrshire boundary.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is comprised of the River Ayr and surrounding woodland. From an aerial imagery review, this woodland would appear to be predominantly broadleaf, but there are also small areas of what is likely to be coniferous plantation. Some small grasslands appear to be present within the site boundary, though their uses and compositions are unknown.The site is largely surrounded by agricultural farmland and small areas of woodland. A very small number of minor roads border the site, but generally this site is very rural.			

- The aerial imagery assessment of this LNCS found that the woodland and watercourse have been preserved and that there is little to no encroachment from the surrounding agricultural practices.
- Approximately 30% of this site overlaps with the River Ayr (Stair to Barskimming) South Ayrshire Local Wildlife Site, and 65% of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI. A small part of the East Ayrshire side of the South Ayrshire Local Wildlife Site is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT).
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 81 records of terrestrial mammals within 1km of the site including 57 records of bats dating between 1997 and 2016, four records of otter dated 1991 and 1997, four records of red squirrel dated between 1994 and 2011, one record of a hedgehog in 2018 and 11 records of brown hare dated between 1997 and 2019.
- SWSEIC also provided over 2200 records of birds within 1km of this site. This included four records of Schedule 1 listed birds (fieldfare, kingfisher, redwing and barn owl), nine records of greylag goose a Schedule 2 listed species, 546 records of species listed on the SBL (black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, swift, tree pipi, wood warbler, woodcock and yellowhammer) and 185 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting, corn bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow).
- The data also included five records of slow worms between 1996 and 2014, one record of an Atlantic salmon in 1997, and 28 invertebrate records including true flies and true beetles.
- A total of 27 records of bluebell were also provided between 1997 and 2021.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be useful to identify any areas of high species diversity as might be expected in ancient woodlands.
- As the site is so rural, pressures from the surrounding populations of East and South Ayrshire are considered to be minimal. However, as the site is immediately surrounded by agricultural land, the site could be under pressure from such as pollution and habitat alterations associated from intensive agricultural practices.
- Further survey would be required to identify tree planting opportunities. From a review of aerial imagery only, it is considered that there may be some tree planting opportunities within some of the grassland areas included within the LNCS boundary. However, surveys of these grasslands would be required as grasslands can be beneficial for biodiversity and the environment in their own right.
- Much of this site therefore appears to be designated as both a LNCS in East Ayrshire and a Local Wildlife Site in South Ayrshire, therefore detailed communication is required in relation to any and all management of this site.
- Consideration should be given to communicating with the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Ayrshire Rivers Trust regarding management of this site, river and its tributaries.
- Other management suggestions would rely on the results of a survey which was not conducted for this review.



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Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	48.655	Total Area (sq m)	486553.42
Central Grid Reference	NS6726SE		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 150m west of Muirkirk.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises the River Ayr, a small section of Garpel Water which is a tributary of the River Ayr, and surrounding grasslands and woodlands.The site is bordered by the A70 to the north, a small area of coniferous woodland plantation in the southwest and west and grasslands in all other directions. Most of those grasslands appear to be improved and grazed.Surrounding land uses are predominantly agricultural fields and commercial forestry.			

- This site lies within a B-Line and a proportion of this site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).

Biodiversity (including but not limited to)

- Marshy grasslands which are dominated by a few species such as common reed, soft rush and meadowsweet.
- Marshy grasslands in the east of the site are more diverse with tufted hair grass, flag iris, yellow loosestrife, water horsetail, butterbur, marsh bedstraw, crested dog's tail, lesser stitchwort, field rose and ragged robin present, as well as a few willow and hawthorn.
- neutral grassland and scrub, includes the following tree species - willow, ash, rowan, Scots pine, raspberry, sycamore
- Neutral grasslands and scrub understory included species such as Yorkshire fog, false oat grass, gorse, meadowsweet, cocks foot, common comfrey and knap
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified five records of otter in 2017, 2018 and 2019, one record of badger in 2018, three records of mountain hare in 2017 and four records of hedgehog in 2018, 2019 and 2020 within 500m of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 217 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - four records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *red crossbill and barn owl*
 - 59 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, ring ouzel and yellowhammer*
 - and 28 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian skylark, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Protected Species

- The River Ayr is suitable for commuting and foraging otter, but unlikely to offer resting site potential along the banks.
- The scrub habitats likely offer some potential for nesting birds, while the watercourse and marshy grasslands likely offer suitable habitat to a range of fish, amphibians and invertebrates which likely attract commuting and foraging bats and birds to the area. One grey heron was observed foraging within the watercourse.
- The woodlands and grasslands within the site may offer some limited potential to foraging badger and hares, though no evidence was found within the site.

Management

- Tree planting has already been conducted within this site. Some further tree planting could be considered within the improved grasslands of the site, though not within the marshy grassland.
- Grazing pressure along the banks of the River Ayr should be reviewed and an adequate buffer between the sheep fields and the watercourse should be maintained to preserve the banks and prevent direct pollution from the sheep getting into the watercourse.

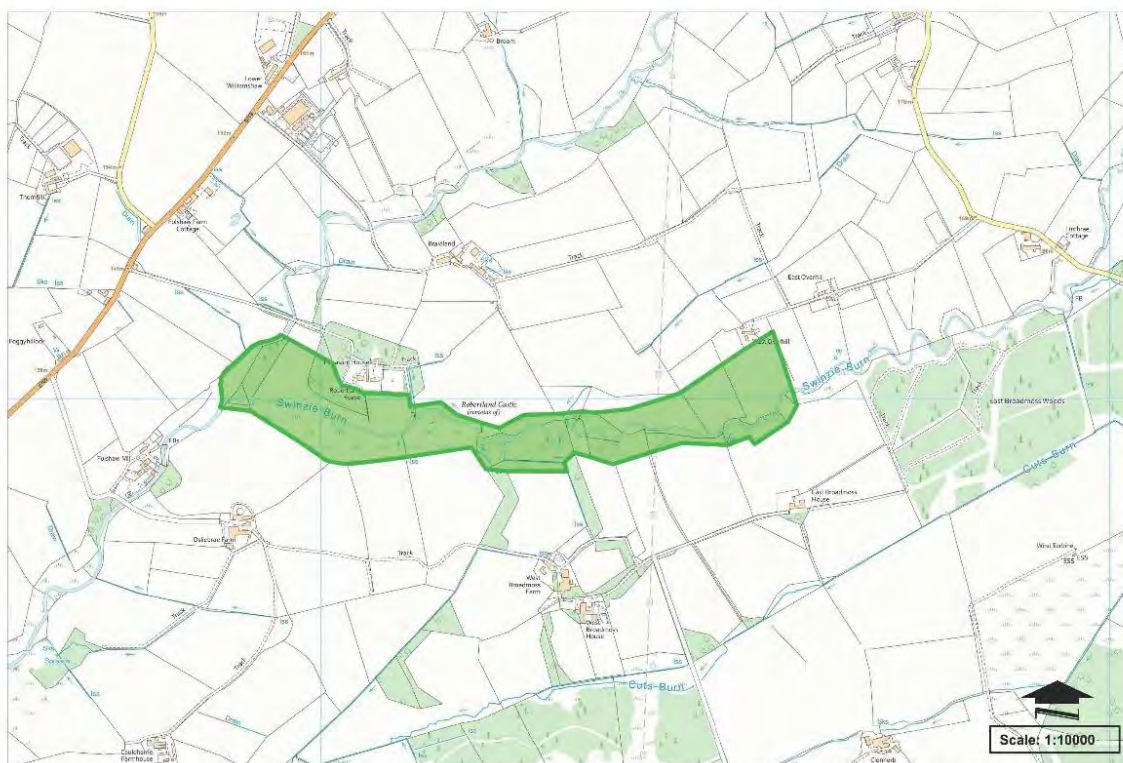


Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	84.970	Total Area (sq m)	849703.69
Central Grid Reference	NS3813NW		
Context	The site is located in the south west of East Ayrshire, immediately to the east of Dalrymple, south of Skeldon and west of Hollybush.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The southern section is predominantly wooded, with an access track running along the eastern boundary and small encroachment from a tarmacked area in the south. This section is immediately bordered by Patna cemetery to the south, and the River Doon forms the eastern boundary of the site. Recently felled forestry was visible immediately west of this section, and agricultural land to the north.			

- The northern section of the site is predominantly wooded and follows the River Doon and is generally surrounded by agricultural land and small areas of woodland.
- 43.8% of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)
- It falls within a B-Line
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 55 records of terrestrial mammals, including 32 records of bats, of which all but one were recorded within the last 20 years, three records of otter, all from 1991, 17 records of red squirrel dated between 1997 and 2012, and two records of a brown hare, both from 2007. None of these records included details of what the animals were doing.
- SWSEIC also provided a total of 606 records of birds within 500m of the site. These included 12 records of Schedule 1 species; nine records of barn owl dated between 2006 and 2017, one record of red crossbill and one record of kingfisher both from 2017, and one record of fieldfare from 1988.
- The data also included one record of bluebells, a Schedule 8 protected plant, recorded in 2018, and one record of broad-leaved helleborine, recorded in 2019.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey would be beneficial. Any future survey should focus on identifying particularly diverse areas of woodland.
- Several minor roads cross through or border the site and may apply pollution pressures from run-off.
- Given the proximity of Dalrymple, Skeldon Mills and Hollybush, this site is likely under some recreational pressures from the surrounding population.
- There may be some opportunities for tree planting.
- Consideration should be given to communicating with the Ayrshire Rivers Trust regarding management of this river and its tributaries.



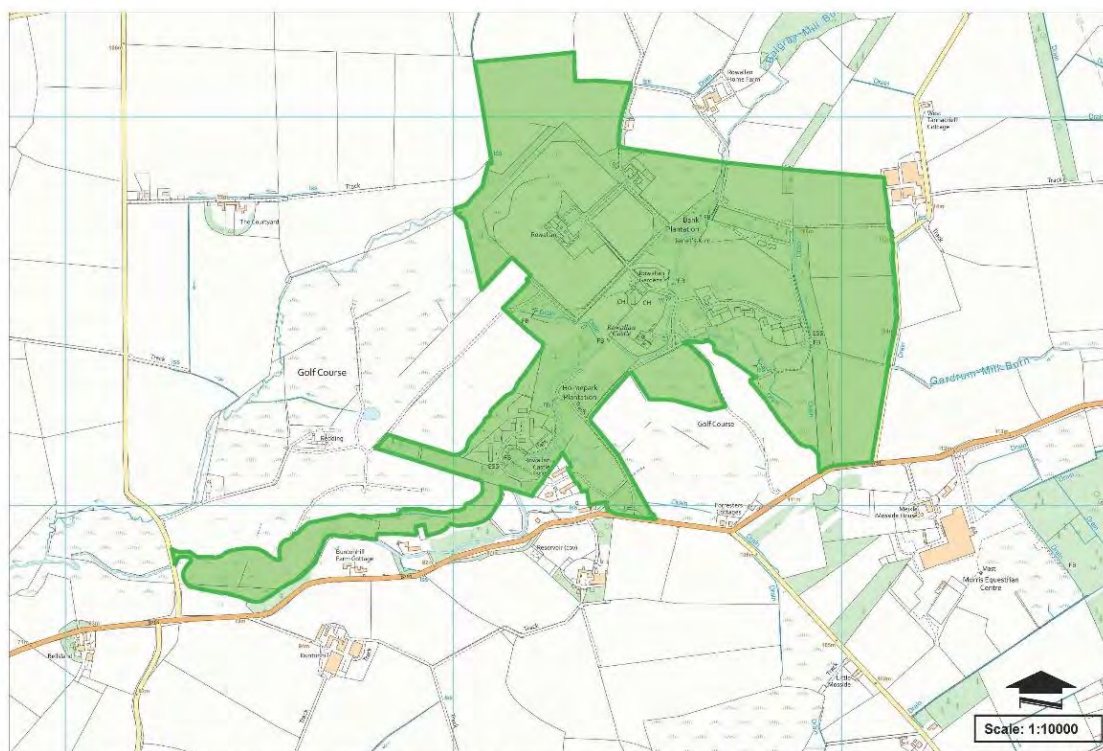
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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	23.105	Total Area (sq m)	231052.12
Central Grid Reference	NS4446NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, 800m north-east of Stewarton.		
Interest			
Habitat - Plant, bird and mammal interest			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site is a mosaic of woodland and scrub and grassland habitat. Annick Water crosses the site to the west of the site, and Swinzie Burn flows through the centre of the site.Surrounding land use primarily comprises of commercial forestry and agricultural land. Clonherb LNCS (Site 93, page 59) to the east. B769 main road runs to the western boundary. Farm buildings and associated roads surround the site.Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of pipistrelle species from 2000, soprano pipistrelle from 2015. one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of the site.			

- SWSEIC also provided 122 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes
 - 29 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lesser redpoll, short-eared owl, swift, tree pipit and yellowhammer*
 - and 13 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas suitable for tree planting (where biodiversity enhancement will be achieved) or which might require management action/protection.
- The main pressure placed on this site is likely to be run-off from the surrounding agricultural farms, and pollution from the minor roads.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	87.880	Total Area (sq m)	878798.23
Central Grid Reference	NS4342NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 300m north of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site predominantly comprises grassland and woodland habitats. Balgray Mill Burn and an unnamed tributary meet in the centre of the site. There is one waterbody within the centre of the site and a second within the north.The grasslands are mostly amenity grasslands used as a golf course and are therefore heavily managed and mown short. The amenity grasslands are typically interspersed with small, unconnected areas of improved or poor semi-improved grasslands which are not mown, and			

include species such as perennial rye, broadleaf dock, Yorkshire fog, nettles and creeping buttercup.

- The broadleaf woodlands include a range of native tree species (including beech, oak, ash, sycamore, Scot's pine and hawthorn), at various ages, and a variety of ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebell, wild garlic and dog's mercury.
- Two areas of coniferous woodland plantation are present within the east of the site, one of which had been fairly recently felled.
- A small area of bare ground was noted within the north of the site. Building work was ongoing at the time of the survey but it was not clear what was being constructed and the area was not entered.
- The main watercourse, Balgray Mill Burn, which flows from woodland in the north of the site to the south.

Protected Species

- The buildings within the site range in age and style but are likely to offer suitable habitat for roosting bats and common species of nesting birds.
- The woodlands and watercourses also likely offer suitable habitat for a range of protected species included bats, otter, water vole, red squirrel, fish and invertebrates.
- A chewed cone was found within the coniferous woodland in the northeast of the site, indicative of the presence of squirrel, thought likely to be red squirrel.
- The amenity grassland of the golf course provides no potential for protected species while the islands of poor semi-improved grassland in between likely offer very limited foraging potential for very limited species.

Management

- Agricultural fields surrounding this site, and minor roads surrounding and within this site likely exert some pollution pressure in the form of run-off.
- This site is very well used by the public for recreation including but not limited to use of the golf course, on site restaurant, event facilities and holiday homes so pressure from footfall is high in places, but not within the woodlands.
- Where possible, native tree species should be planted within land adjacent to the woodland, but not land that is utilised by the golf course.
- Stands of rhododendron present throughout the site should be removed.
- Areas of poor semi-improved grassland between the golf course amenity grasslands could be converted into wildflower patches.



Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	2.231	Total Area (sq m)	22313.74
Central Grid Reference	NS5818SE		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, approximately 300 metres east of Craighs.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site runs alongside Loganhill Road and a railway line and is 750m from Glaisnock Glen / Velveter Wood LNCS comprising a mixture of scrub and trees along the river Surrounding land uses include agricultural farmland, Knockshinnoch Lagoons LNCS, rail lines, pockets of broadleaf woodland and residential buildings with associated roads. 		
Habitat & Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site comprises a mosaic of grasslands and woodland. Data provided by SWSEIC identified three records of badger in 2011 and one record of pine marten in 2017 within 500m of this site. 		

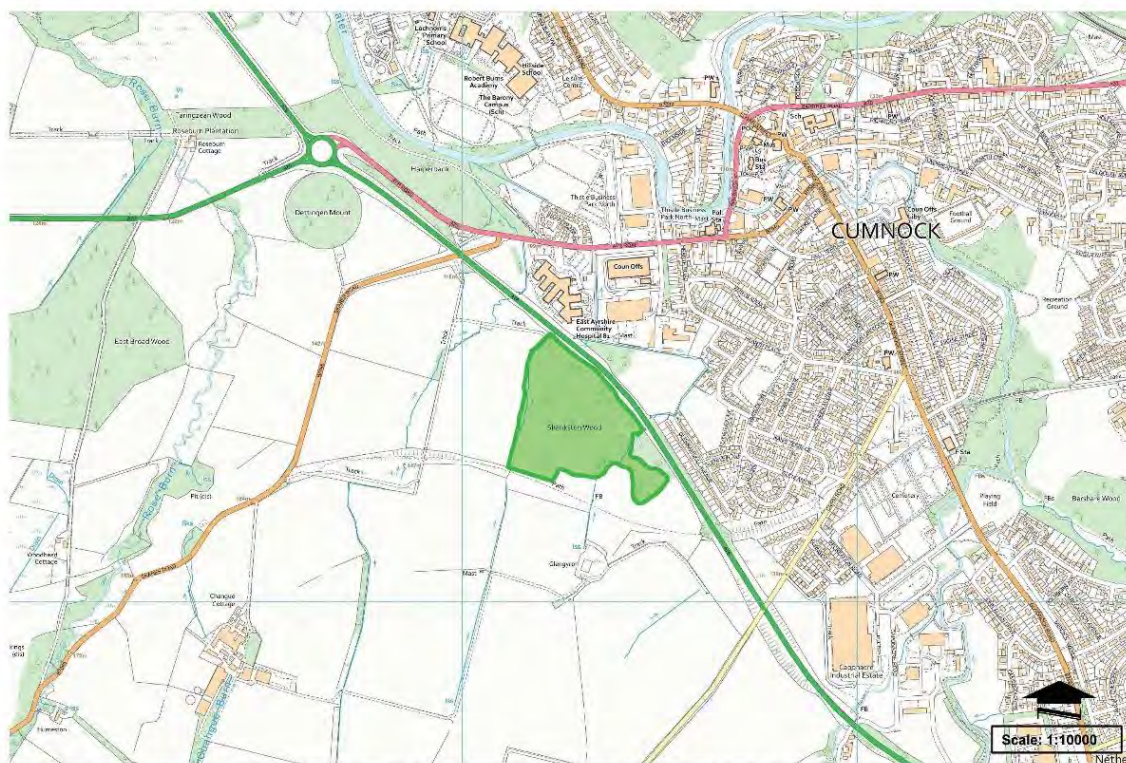
- SWSEIC also provided 12 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included 3 records of Schedule 1 red crossbill and 2 further records of species which are listed on the Ayrshire BAP (common reed bunting and song thrush).
- The data also included one record of small heath.

Protected Species

- Protected species likely occurring either within or in close proximity to site

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.
- Agricultural run-off from the surrounding plantation may exert some pressures on this site, and pressures from the roads used on the working wind farm. This should be monitored.



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	8.573	Total Area (sq m)	85734.38
Central Grid Reference	NS5619SW		
Context	The site is located in the centre of East Ayrshire, immediately adjacent to the A76 and Cumnock.		
Interest	Habitat, botanical and ornithological interest		
Designation Purpose	Nature Conservation		
Habitat information	<p><u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) • This site is entirely wooded. • Native tree species of various ages, including: oak, ash and birch. • Data provided by SWSEIC identified eight records of terrestrial mammals within 500m of the site including five records of bats dated between 2001 and 2015, one record of otter dated 1991, one record of badger dead on the road in 2018 and one record of red squirrel in 2009. 		

- SWSEIC also provided over 4600 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes:
 - 51 records of birds listed on Schedule 1
 - *kingfisher and barn owl*
 - 747 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and a further 98 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Protected Species

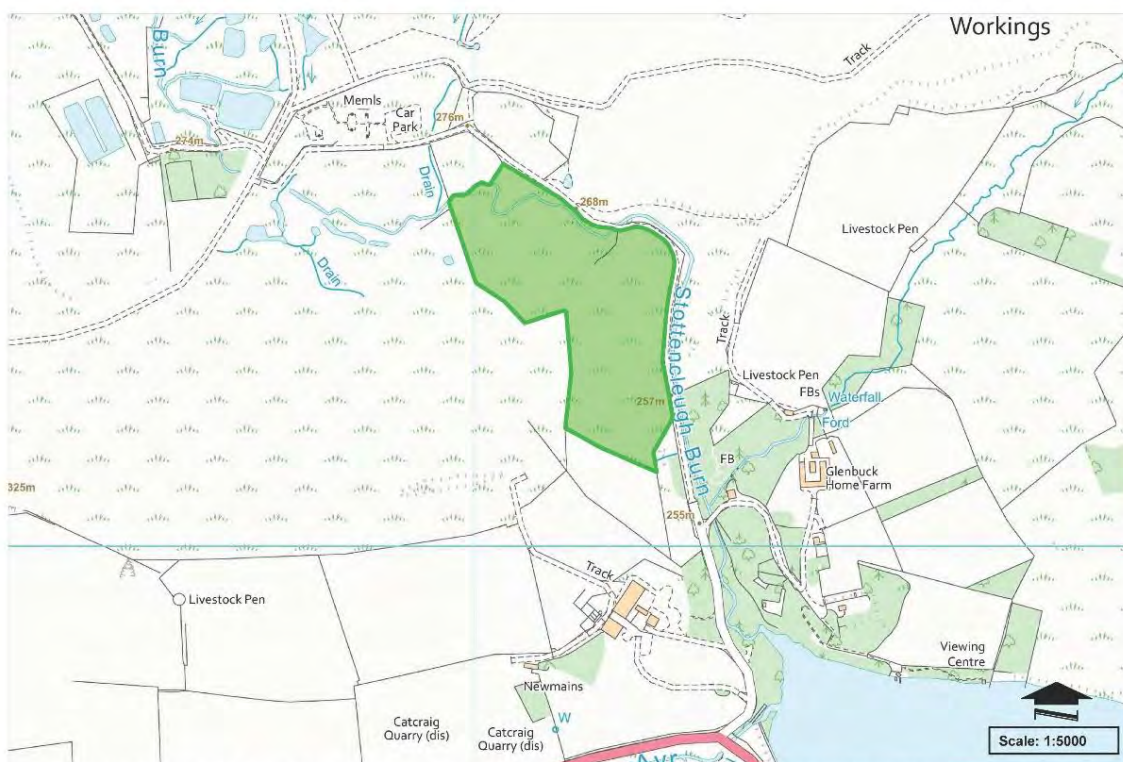
- It is considered likely that this woodland provides suitable habitat for a number of protected species such as bats, badger and nesting birds but due to lack of direct access to the site this could not be confirmed.

Management

- This site is immediately surrounding by farmland and the A76 so it may be under pressures such as pollution and run-off associated with agricultural practices and road traffic.
- No potential for further tree planting as the site is entirely wooded.
- This site is isolated from other blocks of woodland within the landscape, however if connections could be improved along e.g., hedgerows, this woodland may provide even greater potential habitat for a wider range of protected species, especially given the lack of human disturbance through recreational access.
- The woodland should be protected from livestock.

Site ID: 47

Spireslack South



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Primary Habitat Type	Geodiverse		
Total Area (ha)	5.659	Total Area (sq m)	56589.98
Central Grid Reference	NS7529SW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 5.07 km to the north-east of Muirkirk.		
Interest	Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)		
Designation Purpose	Local Geodiversity Site		
Habitat information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spireslack (as a whole) reveals spectacular exposures of Carboniferous strata on a scale not seen anywhere else in the United Kingdom. • Scottish Late Carboniferous to Early Permian Plugs and Vents Suite • Limestone coal formation • Lower limestone formation • Coal seams 		



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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	11.506	Total Area (sq m)	115057.37
Central Grid Reference	NS4423SW		
Context	The site is located within the west of East Ayrshire, approximately 3km north of Coalhall.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The site is bordered by minor roads, a small number of private, rural residential homes, and surrounded by agricultural land. The River Ayr borders the western section, while a tributary of the River Ayr, the Glenstand Burn borders the eastern section.• Overall, 83% of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).			

- Data provided by SWSEIC identified 24 records of terrestrial mammals within 500m of the site including 23 records of bats in 2004 and 2016, and one record of otter in 1991.
- SWSEIC also provided over 700 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes
 - 13 records of Schedule 1 listed birds
 - *kingfisher, fieldfare and redwing*
 - four records of greylag goose a Schedule 2 listed species
 - 141 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, pochard, swift, wood warbler, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - and 63 records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - *Common reed bunting, corn bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
- Plant records for this site include only bluebell, recorded once in 2018.

Management

- The site is surrounded by farmland. As such, the site may be under pressures such as pollution and habitat alterations associated from intensive agricultural practices.
- Several minor roads cross through or border the site and may apply pollution pressures from run-off.
- Planting opportunities within the site are limited.



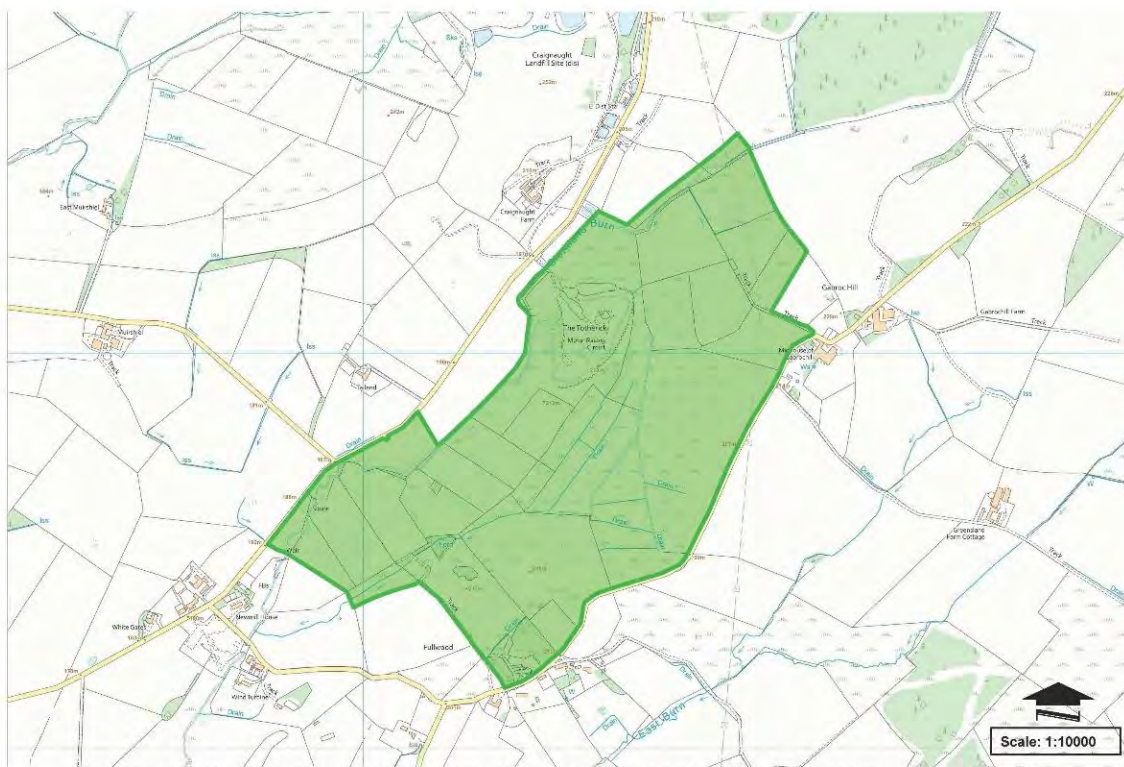
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Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	19.231	Total Area (sq m)	192313.54
Central Grid Reference	NS4538SE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 500m east of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is predominantly comprised of woodland.The site includes a very short length of a minor road, small sections of agricultural fields in the west, and a small residential housing development in the south.The land surrounding this site is mainly agricultural, with the River Irvine forming the southern boundary.			

- The majority of woodland overlap with woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI).
- Data provided by SWSEIC included two records of terrestrial mammal within 500m of this site; one otter recorded in 1991 and one bat recorded in 1998.
- SWSEIC provided 669 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 12 records of species listed on Schedule 1 (kingfisher, red crossbill and barn owl), 130 records of species listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, swift, tree pipit, woodcock and yellowhammer*
 - further 99 records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush, spotted flycatcher and tree sparrow*
 - The data also included one record of a common toad.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action.
- The minor road and surrounding agricultural practices may apply pollution pressures from run-off.
- Prevent further erosion to residential development pressure.



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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	84.874	Total Area (sq m)	848741.18
Central Grid Reference	NS4450NE		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 2.5 km north-east of Dunlop.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitats & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site is predominantly improved or marshy grassland, much of it utilised as grazing grounds for livestock. The fields are generally separated by intact, but species-poor hedgerows of hawthorn, beech and / or gorse.Small areas of broadleaf and mixed woodland are present within the south of the site and contain tree species such as beech, Scots pine and sycamore.Two small areas of scattered willow and hawthorn scrub woodland are present within the west of the site, and scattered lines of willow are present in the east of the site.			

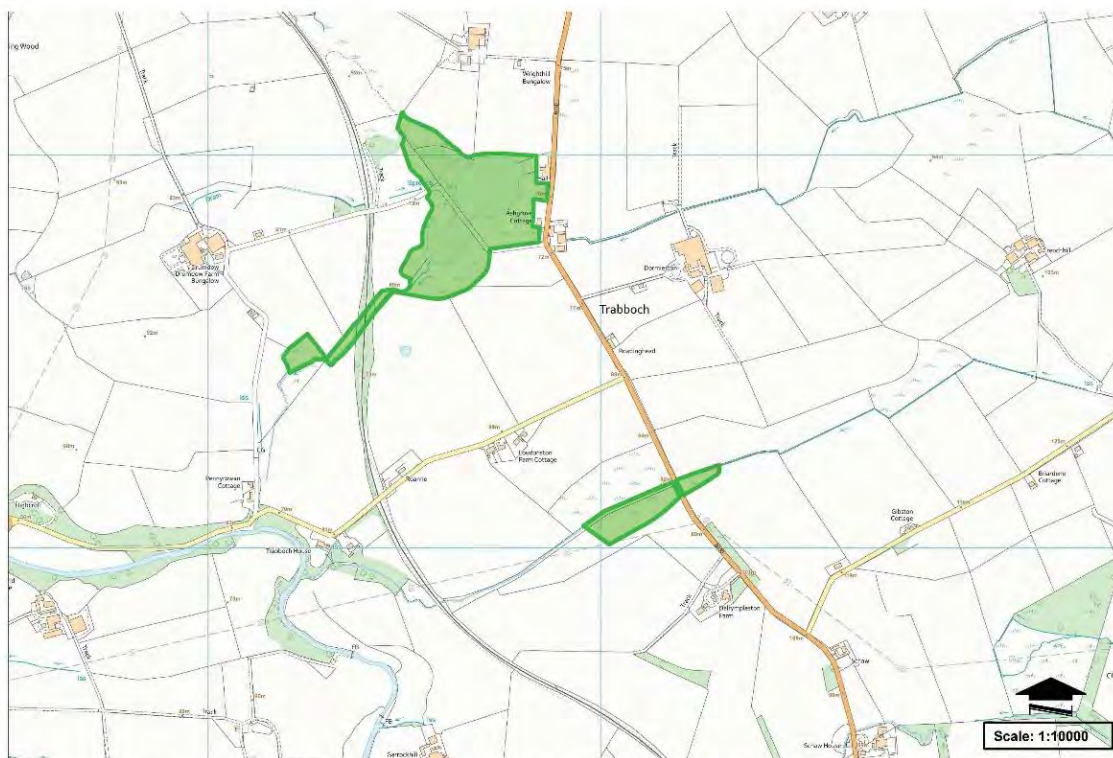
- Clerkland Burn watercourse flows through the western edge of the site, connected to the marshy grassland areas and a small number of other watercourses which flow through the site.
- A very small waterbody within the west of the site with banks vegetated contained bullrush, common reed and soft rush.
- A small broadleaf woodland has been recently planted immediately east of one of the existing pockets.
- The hedgerows were generally gappy with limited understory.
- The mountain biking course is generally bare ground tracks interspersed with small vegetated areas including species typically found in amenity grasslands.
- One small stand of rhododendron was identified within the very south of the site, with two additional small stands immediately outside of the site.

Protected Species

- The mountain biking area, while predominantly comprised of bare ground, includes rocky cliffs which may provide some suitable habitat for roosting bats and nesting birds.
- The woodlands and scrub woodlands are likely suitable for common species of nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles, but are not well connected to similar habitat.
- The Clerkland Burn may provide limited suitable habitat for commuting otter, though the watercourse is not well connected upstream to larger watercourses or waterbodies and it highly poached by livestock, this reducing its suitability. Smaller watercourses within the site are not considered suitable for protected species due to being heavily poached by livestock.
- The waterbody may provide suitable some habitat for invertebrates, fish, common species of amphibians and limited foraging grounds for otter.
- Given time, the newly planted broadleaf woodland would double the size of the adjacent stand of woodland and provide suitable habitat for a number of protected species such as badger, bats and nesting birds.

Management

- Consideration could be given to extending and connecting the scrub and woodland blocks within this site.
- Small stands of rhododendron within the south should be removed.



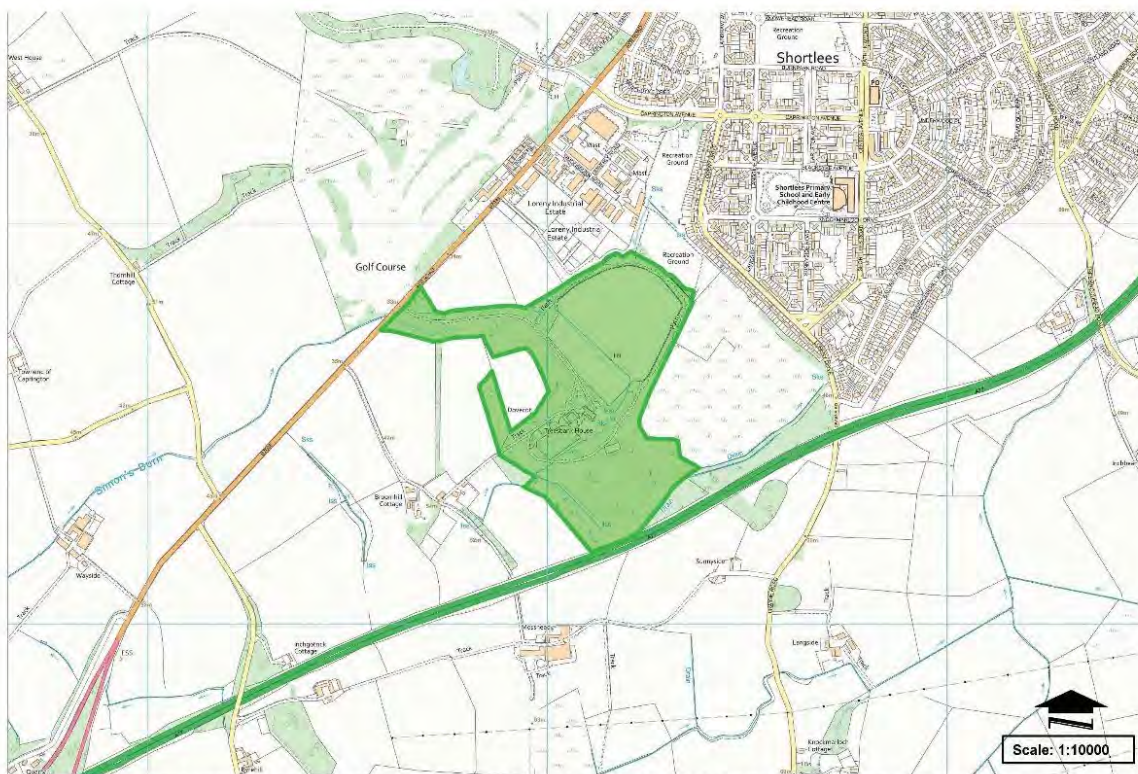
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Primary Habitat Type	Wetlands		
Total Area (ha)	11.300	Total Area (sq m)	112995.72
Central Grid Reference	NS4321NE		
Context	The site is located in the west of East Ayrhsire, approximately 900 m north of Coalhall.		
Interest			
Habitat – Botanical & Ornithological interest			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This site comprises of areas of wetland habitats, with scrub to the north and the south and grassland surrounding the waterbodies. A railway line crosses the site from north to south and minor roads cross through the site.• Surrounding land uses comprise an agricultural field, a minor road B730 immediately west of the site, and residential buildings to the east.• Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of the site.			

- SWSEIC also provided over 1078 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 23 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - *fieldfare, green sandpiper, kingfisher, long-tailed duck, peregrine, redwing, scaup*
 - 19 records of species listed on Schedule 2
 - *greylag goose, goldeneye and pintail*
 - 190 records of birds listed on the SBL
 - *black-headed gull, cuckoo, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, swift, wood warbler and yellowhammer*
 - and 97 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire BAP
 - *common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher*

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action/protection.



Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	26.113	Total Area (sq m)	261134.23
Central Grid Reference	NS4234NW		
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, immediately south-west of Kilmarnock.		
Interest			
Habitat – Botanical & ornithological interest			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">This site has two main habitat types; an improved grassland field in the centre of the site, surrounded by broadleaf woodland. The woodland includes tree species such as beech, sycamore, oak, ash, rowan, holly, horse chestnut, lime, elm, Sitka spruce, Scots pin and yew and has an understory including species such as bluebell, common comfrey, wild garlic, cleavers, male fern, nettles, feather moss and pendulous sedge. Climbers such as honeysuckle and ivy are also common.			

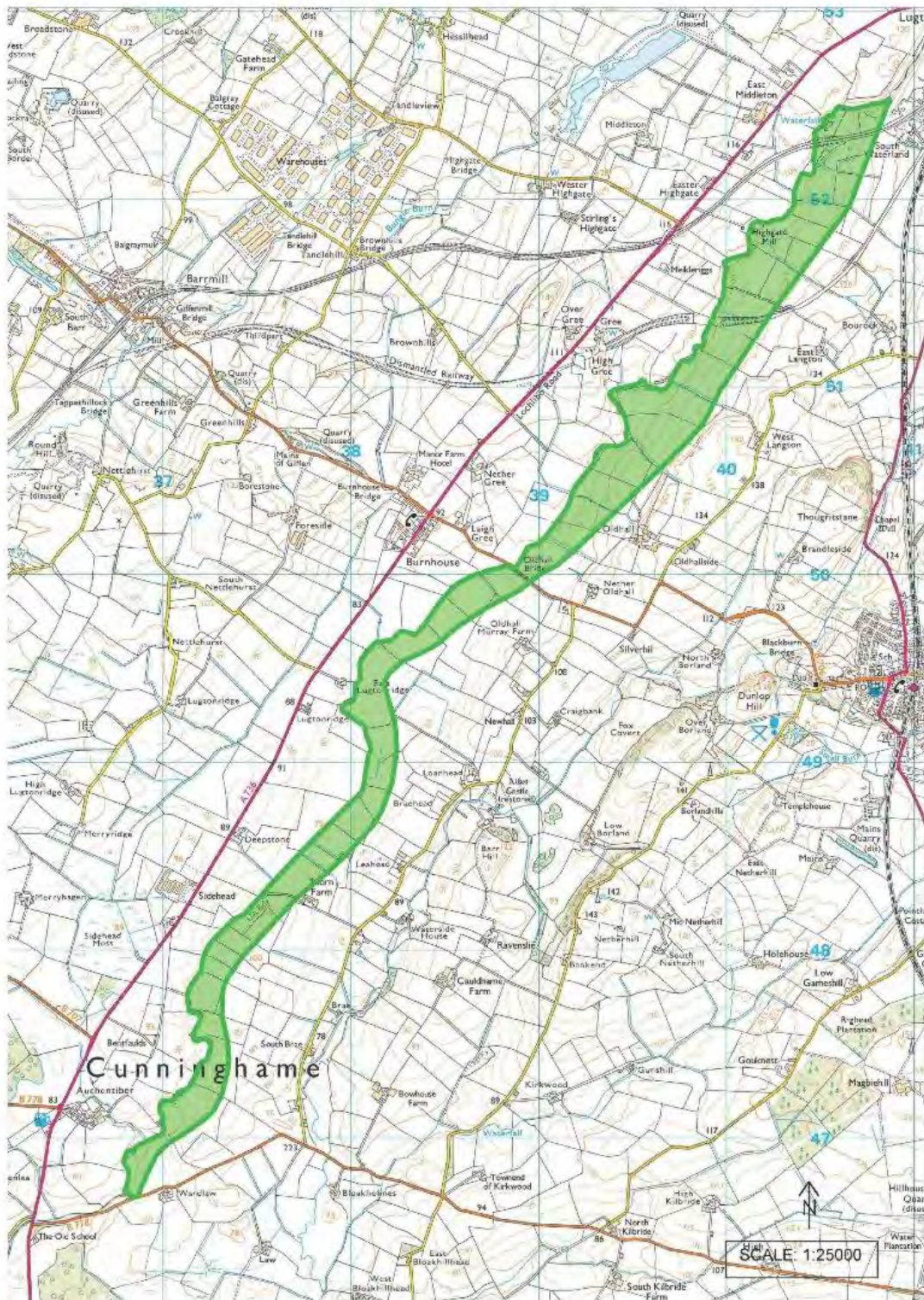
- The grassland was considered to be improved as perennial rye dominated. Other species included nettles, broadleaf dock, creeping buttercup, bramble and soft rush.
- Narrow strips of marshy grassland under pylons and poor semi-improved grassland were also present within the north and west of the site respectively.
- A small, sluggish watercourse was present within the north of the site, however it was well shaded, shallow with steep banks and had very murky water therefore was not considered suitable habitat for any protected species.
- The main house and gardens within the centre of the site were not surveyed due to being private property.
- Numerous stands of rhododendron are present within the site, particularly within the west along the entrance driveway and south. Two stands of bamboo were also identified along the entrance driveway in the west of the site.
- A proportion of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI, and the site overlaps with a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of a bat in 2005 and one record of a hedgehog in 2017, within 500m of this site.
- SWSEIC also provided 33 records of birds within 500m of this site. This included two records of barn owl, a Schedule 1 listed species, 18 records of birds listed on the SBL (herring gull, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, woodcock and yellowhammer) and one further record of a song thrush which is listed on the Ayrshire BAP.

Protected Species

- One occupied corvid nest was heard within the northeast of the site. The woodlands provide suitable habitat for several protected species including bats, badger, red squirrel, pine marten, common species of birds, amphibians and reptiles, though no evidence was identified.
- Two grey squirrels were seen within the east and west of the woodland.

Management

- The site is easily accessible by members of the public through a small grassland immediately northeast of the site and the woodland, particularly within the east and south of the site, is well used by dog walkers. Unfortunately, this area of the site also suffers from campfires and a small amount of rubbish dumping.
- The surrounding agricultural practices, roads and industrial estate may exert some pressure on this site in terms of pollution run-off.
- There is potential for tree planting within the grasslands of this site, however their current use is unconfirmed, and grasslands can be beneficial to wildlife in their own right therefore further survey may be required to confirm this site's potential for tree planting.
- A number of invasive species were identified within this site and should be removed to prevent their spread.
- The local population actively uses this site, so providing some formalised paths, bins and signage could boost the value of this woodland to the local population.

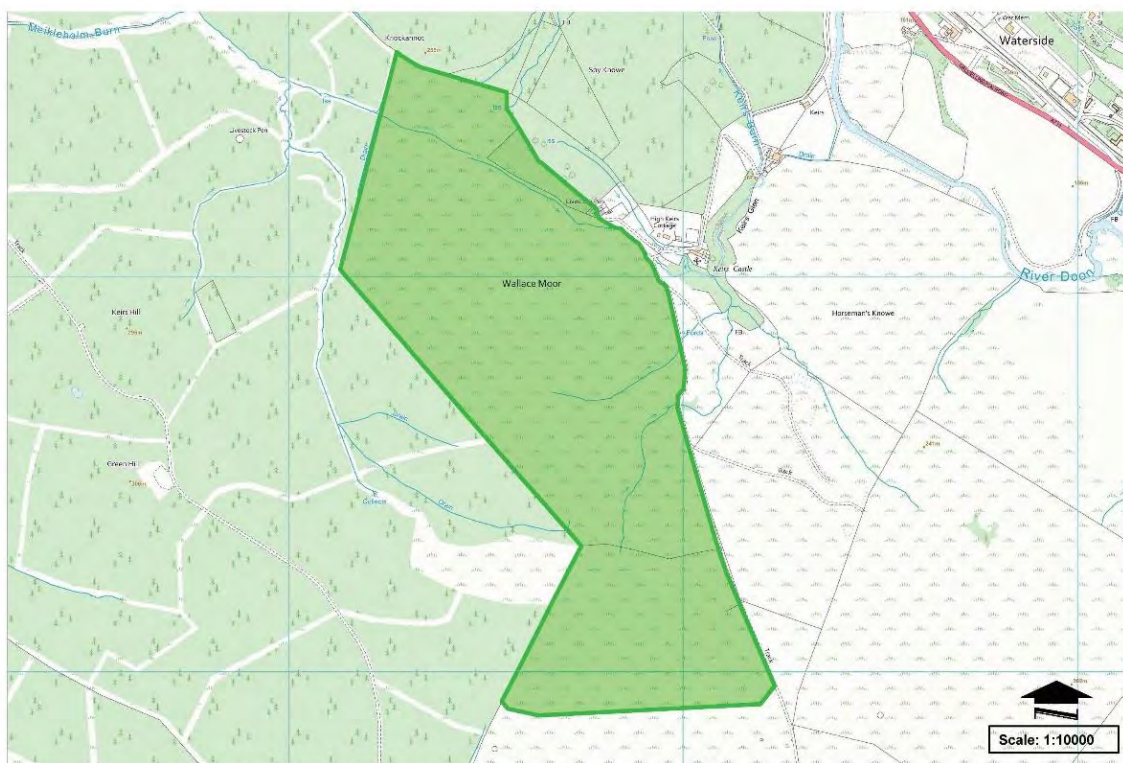


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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	148.743	Total Area (sq m)	1487431.62

Central Grid Reference	NS3747NW
Context	The site is located in the north of East Ayrshire, approximately 460m south of Lugton.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<p><u>Habitat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main habitats present within this site are improved grassland and poor semi-improved grass • Long site which broadly follows the Upper Lugton watercourse which itself forms the border between East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire. • Small patches of woodland, and a number of hedgerows within the site • The watercourse flows north to south through the length of the site, with typically rocky substrates and sandy, vertical banks which are highly poached by livestock which occupy the many of the fields surrounding the watercourse • A narrow strip of semi-natural broadleaf woodland is present within the north of the site. This woodland was on an old, unused railway embankment. • Embankment comprised of semi-improved neutral grassland and dense scrub area. • Site lies within a B-Line <p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marshy grassland species include (but not limited to) - meadowsweet, soft rush, common reed common, water forget me not, nettles, hawthorn, dog rose, rosebay willowherb and gorse • Semi-natural broadleaf woodland species include (but not limited to) - willow, hawthorn, beech, false oat grass, creeping bent, male fern, wild strawberry, cleavers, butterbur, ash sow thistle, vetch, cocks' foot, hogweed, red campion, nettles, raspberry, rowan, oxeye daisy, bramble, horsetail, common figwort and St John's wort • Neutral grassland species include (but not limited to) - Yorkshire fog, tufted hair grass, common reed, nettles horsetail, soft rush, creeping thistle, hawthorn, Dock, butterbur and meadow • Scrub – Hawthorn and Hazel • SWSEIC recorded sightings of Schedule 1 species (The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981) • SWSEIC recorded sightings of Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) species • SWSEIC recorded sightings of Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species <p><u>Protected Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercourse suitable for foraging and commuter species (including otter) • Habitats within the site otherwise offer protected species very limited opportunities for foraging, commuting or resting due to the open, improved, grazed grasslands within the site. 	

Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This site is under intensive pressure from the surrounding farming practices, particularly as livestock generally have uninhibited access to the watercourse, and the land slopes down into the watercourse.• Grazing pressures should be reviewed and where possible, access directly to the watercourse should be prevented to protect the sandy banks from damage by lives• There is potential for tree planting within the site. Consideration of tree planting to extend the small and isolated scrub and woodland habitats within the site should be given.



Primary Habitat Type	Mires and Heaths		
Total Area (ha)	86.892	Total Area (sq m)	868919.97
Central Grid Reference	NS4207NE		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 740m west of Patna.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The site comprises an area of blanket bog located in the centre of the Site, characterised by sphagnum rich pools comprised of <i>sphagnum papillosum</i> and <i>Sphagnum fallax</i>. Deergrass <i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i> and purple moorgrass <i>Molinia caerulea</i>. Other species included bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>, bog asphodel <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>, tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i>, hares tail cotton grass, <i>Eriphorum vaginatum</i>, sundew <i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>, heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> and cross leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i>.			

- A mosaic of marshy grassland and wet heath/acid grassland is present to the north of the Site. Abundant species included soft rush *Juncus effusus* and common bent grass *Agrostis capillaris*. Other species included sheeps fescue *Festuca ovina* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*.
- Other habitats include a mosaic of marshy grassland and semi-improved acid grassland to the south west, a mosaic of wet heath and semi-improved acid grassland to the east and coniferous plantation woodland to the east. Running water also intersects the Site at various points.
- An area of wet modified bog characterised by purple moorgrass.
- This site lies within a B-Line.
- Data provided by SWSEIC identified one record of otter in 1991 within 500m of the site.
- SWSEIC also provided 106 records of birds within 500m of this site. This includes:
 - 8 records of species listed on Schedule 1
 - barn owl and red crossbill
 - 19 records of birds listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)
 - cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, swift, tree pipit, yellow wagtail and woodcock
 - 13 further records of species listed on the Ayrshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
 - common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, linnet, song thrush and tree sparrow
- The data also included one record of grayling.

Protected Species

- The site itself offers no roosting potential for bats; however, an Ash tree *Fraxinus excelsior* located immediately east of the site out-with the red line boundary offers low potential for roosting bats in the form of loose bark.
- Heath and grassland habitats present within the site offer suitable habitat for ground nesting birds. No birds were observed at the time of the field survey; however this does not confirm their absence as the survey can only provide a snap-shot in time.
- Wallace Moor/Kiers Hill may offer limited potential habitat for commuting and foraging otter. Numerous drainage channels intersected the site at various points and otter prints were identified within the blanket bog habitat. No other signs of otter were identified during the field survey.
- A drystone wall located at the far north of the site offers limited potential as a hibernacula for reptiles.
- Habitats on Site are potentially suitable to support commuting, foraging and sheltering amphibians and small mammals.

Management

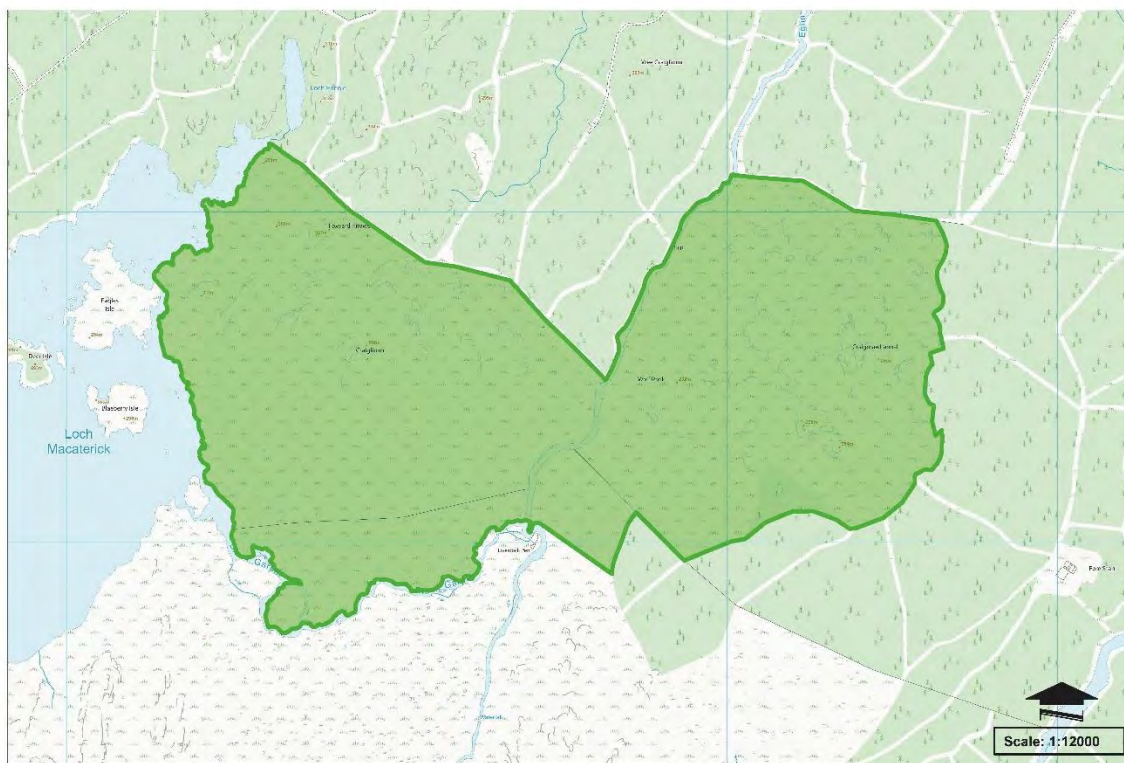
- Tree planting is not recommended on Site due to the presence of blanket and wet modified bog; however, areas of broadleaved woodland to the east of the Site could be linked and improved with native planting regimes.
- Drainage could be dammed within the Site to enable blanket bog habitat to expand and recover.
- A reduction in grazing pressures from cattle could also lead to an improvement in bog habitat, in turn leading to an increase in species abundance and diversity.
- Cognisance of the value of the LNCS should be noted and integrated into any subsequent development proposals (including those relating to renewables) and incorporate appropriate mitigation to reduce potentially significant negative impacts.
- Ensure that the requirements of the relevant and applicable LDP2 policies are met and addressed through design, layout and scale.



Primary Habitat Type	Woodland and Scrub		
Total Area (ha)	40.884	Total Area (sq m)	408843.19
Central Grid Reference	NS4221SE		

Context	This site is located within the west of East Ayrshire, immediately adjacent to Coalhall.
Interest	
Habitat	
Designation Purpose	
Nature Conservation	
Habitat information	
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water of Coyle is a long and generally very narrow site on the county boundary largely following the woodland immediately surrounding the Water of Coyle within East Ayrshire. Land use immediately surrounding is agricultural Overall, approximately 40% of the site overlaps with woodland listed on the AWI. Further, as 90% of the site overlaps with the South Ayrshire Water of Coyle (Bridgend to Mill of Shield) Local Wildlife Site, this site was not selected for a site visit. Data provided by SWSEIC identified 23 records of terrestrial mammal within 500m of the site, including 18 records of bats dated between 2000 and 2016, three records of otter all recorded in 1991. SWSEIC also provided exactly 1500 records of birds within 1km of this site. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 records of Schedule 1 species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>kingfisher, long-tailed dusk, scaup and barn owl</i> three records of greylag goose, a Schedule 2 listed bird 531 records of birds listed on the SBL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>black-headed gull, curlew, herring gull, grasshopper warbler, house sparrow, kestrel, lapwing, lesser redpoll, pochard, ring ouzel, wood warbler and yellowhammer</i> and 56 records of birds listed on the Ayrshire BAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>common reed bunting, Eurasian bullfinch, Eurasian skylark, grey partridge, linnet, song thrush and spotted flycatcher</i> A total of 64 records of invertebrates were provided, including records of dingy skipper, grayling, small heath and small pearl-bordered fritillary, all recorded between 2011 and 2019. Plant records for this site include only bluebell and broad-leaved helleborine. 	
Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey recommended if tree planting is proposed for this site, and to identify any areas of high species diversity as might be expected in ancient woodlands. A small number of minor roads cross through or border the site and may apply pollution pressures from run-off. A small sewage works is present within the southern part of the western section of the site, and the surrounding landscape includes agriculture, a trout fishery and several settlements within both East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire. This site is therefore likely to be under various pressures such as pollution and recreation. The proposed development areas around Drongan do not directly impact this site, but the increase in housing may increase the recreational pressures applied to this site. Further survey would be required to identify tree planting opportunities (ensuring biodiversity enhancement and range of species). 	

- Given the lack of connectivity between the two distinct section of this site, and lack of knowledge as to why they were originally paired, it is proposed that for management and planning purposes, this LNCS becomes two distinct LNCS: Water of Coyle (Site 81, page 228) in the west, and Drongan Wood in the east.
- As this site lies on the border between East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire, detailed communication is required in relation to any and all management of this site.
- Consideration should be given to communicating with the Ayrshire Rivers Trust regarding management of this river and its tributaries.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite / Heathland		
Total Area (ha)	215.9	Total Area (sq m)	
Central Grid Reference	NS4591SW		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 7.3 miles south of Dalmellington. The site is located to the north-east of Merrick Kells S.S.S.I.		
Interest			
Habitat – Site contains similar vegetation types to the adjacent S.S.S.I, including wet heath with patches of dry heath and acid grassland, though at a lower level than the Merrick Kells S.S.S.I.			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
This area was assessed and considered to merit a Wildlife Site at the time of the last review which was undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1982.			
<u>Habitat & Biodiversity</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This site comprises of an area of upland habitats including wet heath, dry heath and acid grassland. It abuts Loch Macaterick which might arguably be included within this LNCS.			

- The Black Garpel Burn runs along the south boundary and the Elgin Lane burn bisects the site. These are sizeable upland watercourses.
- The surrounding land use on three sides is commercial forestry.
- Data obtained from the NBN gateway identified one record of otter in 2012, small heath butterfly in 2018, large heath butterfly in 1995 and a caddisfly in 1994. It also listed 19 records of birds from 2006 within 1km of the site.

Protected Species

Birds

- Raven is on schedule 1 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.
- Reed bunting is on the Scottish Biodiversity List.
- Skylark is listed red under UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List, while reed bunting, meadow pipit, willow warbler, wheatear, wren and grey wagtail are listed as amber.

Otter

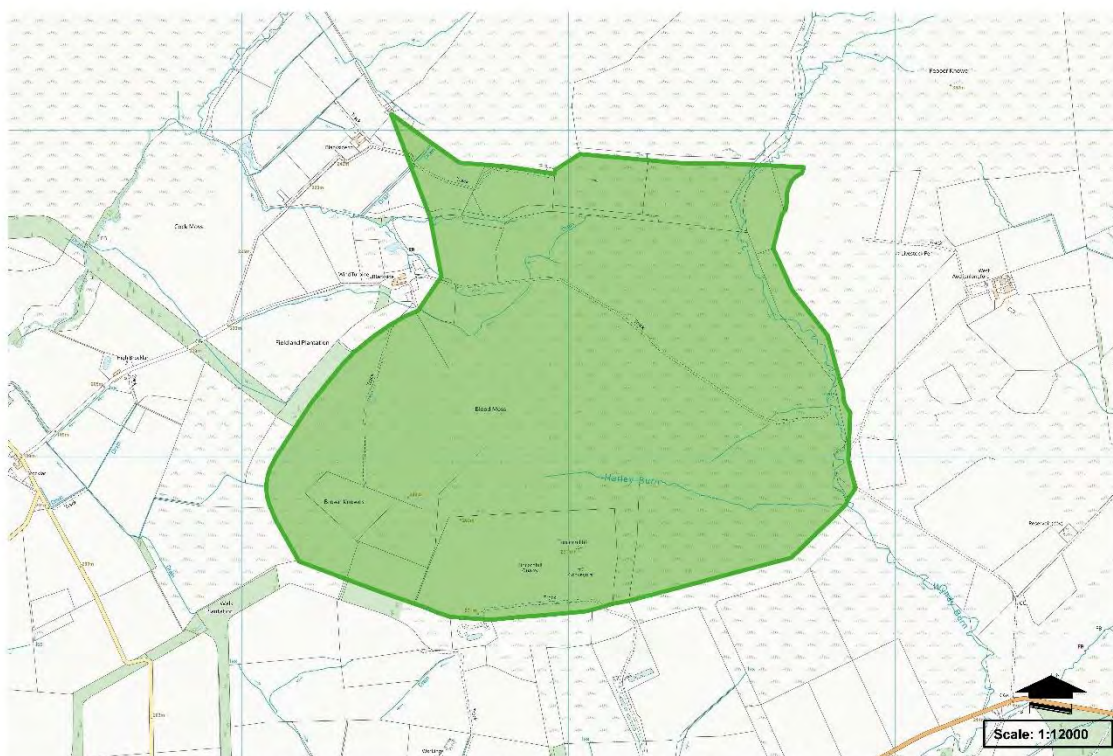
- Loch Mecaterick and the burns are ideal for otter which is a European Protected Species and on the Scottish Biodiversity List.

Other

- Both the small heath and large heath butterflies are on the Scottish Biodiversity List and considered High Priority by Butterfly Conservation.
- The caddisfly *Holocentropus picicornis* – red list GB post 2001.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- Given that this is upland habitat, with areas of heath and blanket bog, planting trees is not recommended in most areas.



Primary Habitat Type	Composite / Blanket bog		
Total Area (ha)	189.02	Total Area (sq m)	1890269.40
Central Grid Reference	NS5728SE		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 1.4 miles north-east of Sorn. The site is located to the south-west of Muirkirk Uplands S.S.S.I.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation			
Habitat information			
Similar vegetation types to the adjacent Muirkirk Uplands S.S.S.I, including a peat bog known as Blood Moss, wet heath and acid grassland. This area was assessed and considered to merit a Wildlife Site at the time of the last review which was undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1982.			
Habitat & Biodiversity			

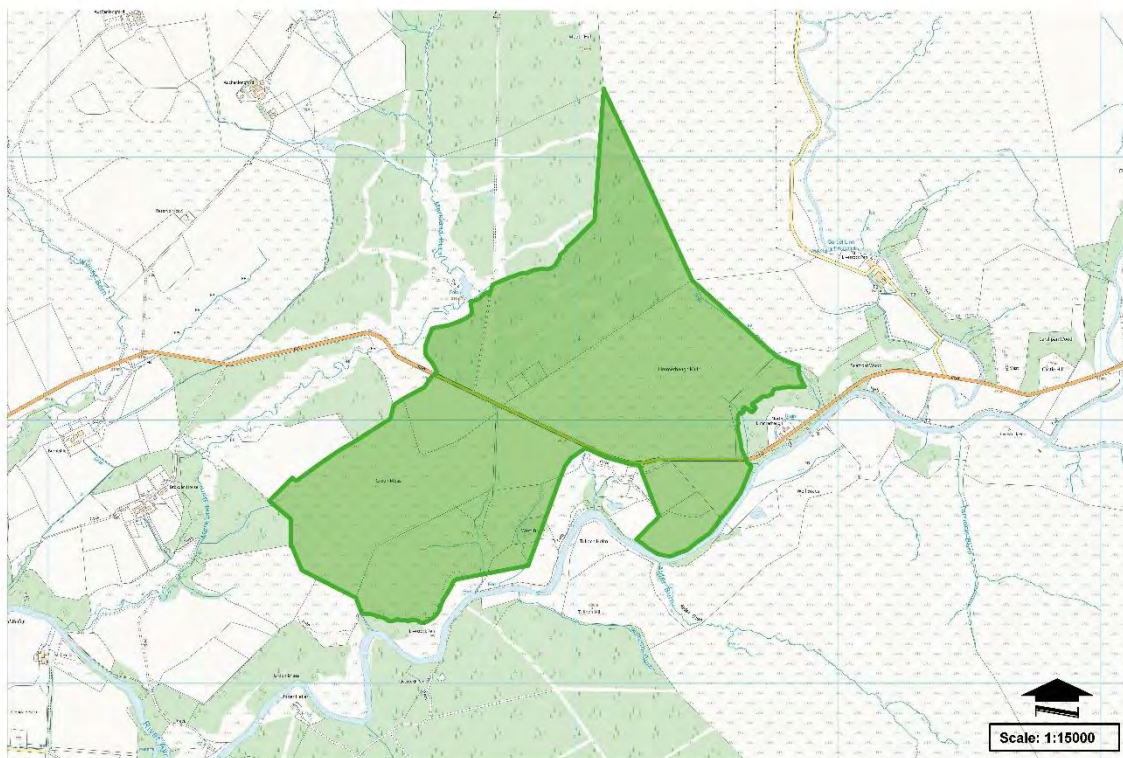
- This site comprises of an area of upland habitats including peatland, wet heath and acid grassland.
- The area of active quarrying should be excluded from the site boundary.
- The site is surrounded on three sides by agricultural land.
- Data obtained from the NBN gateway identified 33 records of water beetle from 1978. While that was a long time ago there is no reason to suppose that the site will no longer hold a diversity of beetles.
- The lack of records other than water on the NBN was surprising on a site like this. This should be investigated further.

Protected Species

- The habitat and location indicate that this could be a good site for notable birds, plants and invertebrates.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- Given that this is peatland habitat, planting trees is not recommended in most areas.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite / Blanket bog		
Total Area (ha)	123.22	Total Area (sq m)	1232257.92
Central Grid Reference	NS6127SW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 2.6 miles east of Sorn. The site is located to the south-west and north Muirkirk Uplands S.S.S.I (two separate areas).		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation & habitat connectivity			
Habitat information			
Similar vegetation types to the adjacent SSSI, including a peat bog known as Crook Moss, wet heath known as Lammerlaugh Muir and acid grassland. This area was assessed and considered to merit a Wildlife Site at the time of the last review which was undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1982.			
Habitat & Biodiversity			

- The site is located immediately to the south-west of Muirkirk Uplands S.S.S.I, immediately to the north of River Ayr: Mid Heilar to Chapelhouse (Site No: 9; page 193) and subsequently adjacent to Muirkirk Uplands S.S.S.I to the south. As such, the site forms part of a strong habitat network/nature network.
- This site comprises an area of upland habitats including peatland, wet heath and acid grassland.
- The area of conifer plantation should be excluded from the site boundary.
- A search on the NBN gateway identified 100 records within 1km of the site, including butterflies, moths, water beetles and birds.

Protected Species

Birds

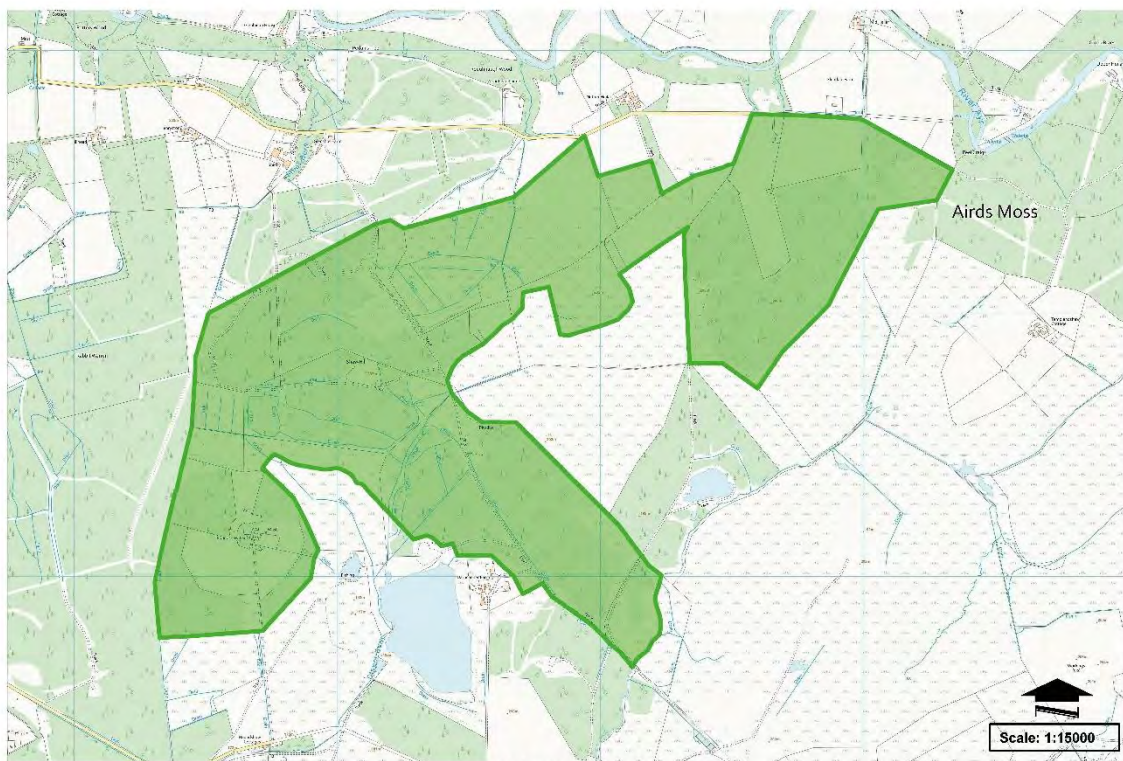
- Lapwing and curlew are on the Scottish Biodiversity List.
- Lapwing, curlew, and mistle thrush are listed red under UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List, while dipper and snipe are listed as amber.

Other

- Both the small heath and large heath butterflies are on the Scottish Biodiversity List and considered High Priority by Butterfly Conservation.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- Given that this is peatland habitat, planting trees is not recommended in most areas.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite / Blanket bog		
Total Area (ha)	255.01	Total Area (sq m)	2550130.47
Central Grid Reference	NS5724NW		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 0.9 miles south-east of Sorn. The site is located to the north-west and west Airds Moss S.S.S.I.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature Conservation & habitat connectivity			
Habitat information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The site is located immediately to the north-west and west of Airds Moss S.S.S.I., as well as immediately to the north of Darconner (Site No: 103; page 90) and subsequently in close proximity to River Ayr: Damhead to Nether Heilar (Site No: 8; page 200). As such, the site forms part of a strong habitat network/nature network.			
Habitat & Biodiversity			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">A mosaic of woodland, bog and grassland with notable birds and butterflies.			

- A search on the NBN gateway identified 184 records within 1km of the site, including butterflies and birds.

Protected Species

Birds

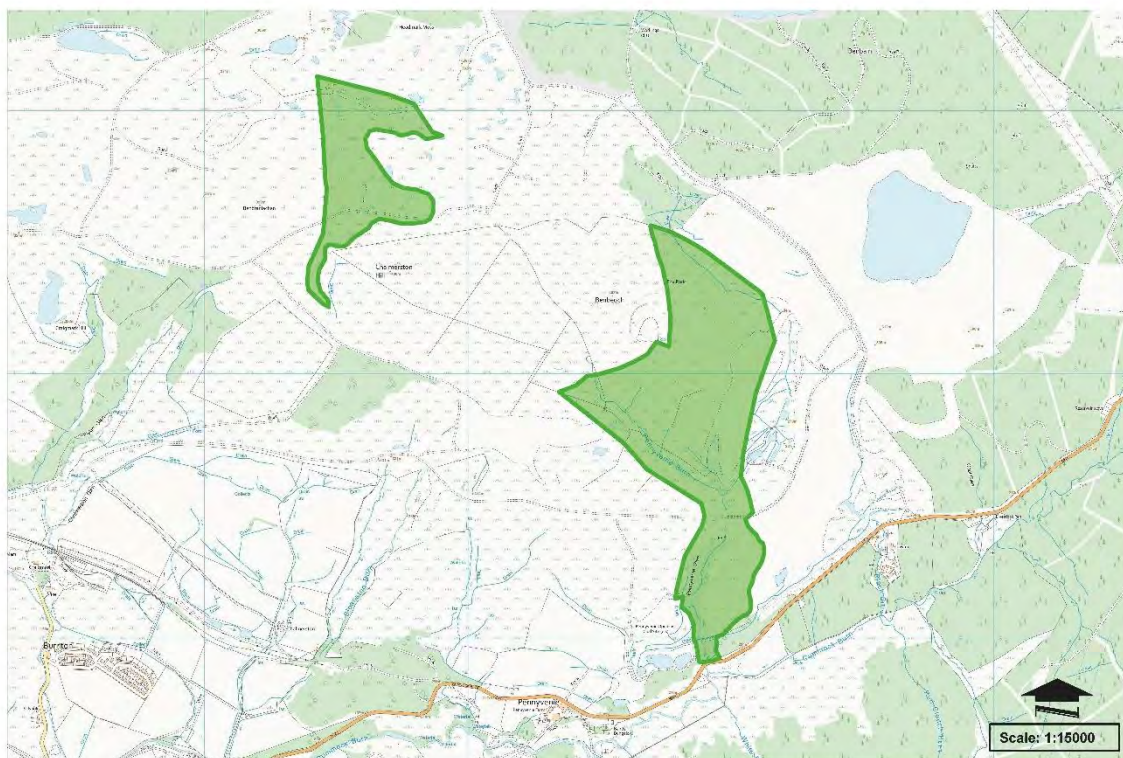
- Cuckoo, curlew, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, house sparrow, lapwing, mistle thrush, skylark and starling are listed red under UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List, while greylag goose, kestrel, lesser black-back gull, mallard, meadow pipit, oystercatcher, redpoll, reed bunting, snipe, song thrush, willow warbler and wren are listed as amber.
- Reed bunting is on the Scottish Biodiversity List.

Other

- The small heath, large heath, dingy skipper and small pearl-bordered fritillary butterflies are on the Scottish Biodiversity List and considered High Priority by Butterfly Conservation. Dark green fritillary butterfly is BC Medium Priority.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- Given that this is peatland habitat, consideration should be given to not replanting after clear-fell. Native tree planting may be suitable in some areas.



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Primary Habitat Type	Geodiverse / Composite		
Total Area (ha)	70.87	Total Area (sq m)	708746.71
Central Grid Reference	NS4908SE		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 0.9 miles north-east of Burnfoot and Dalmellington. The site is located to the north-west and south-east of Benbeoch S.S.S.I.		
Interest			
Botanical			
Designation Purpose			
Nature conservation			
Habitat information			
Botanically rich grassland and woodland with rare plants. Mostly open grassland habitat. Botanical interest lies in the vegetated ledges, scree and boulders of Beneoch Craig which is surrounded by acidic grassland. Pennyvenie Glen contains semi-natural gorge woodland of upland character of birch, alder and ash with good shrub and ground layers.			
Habitat & Biodiversity			

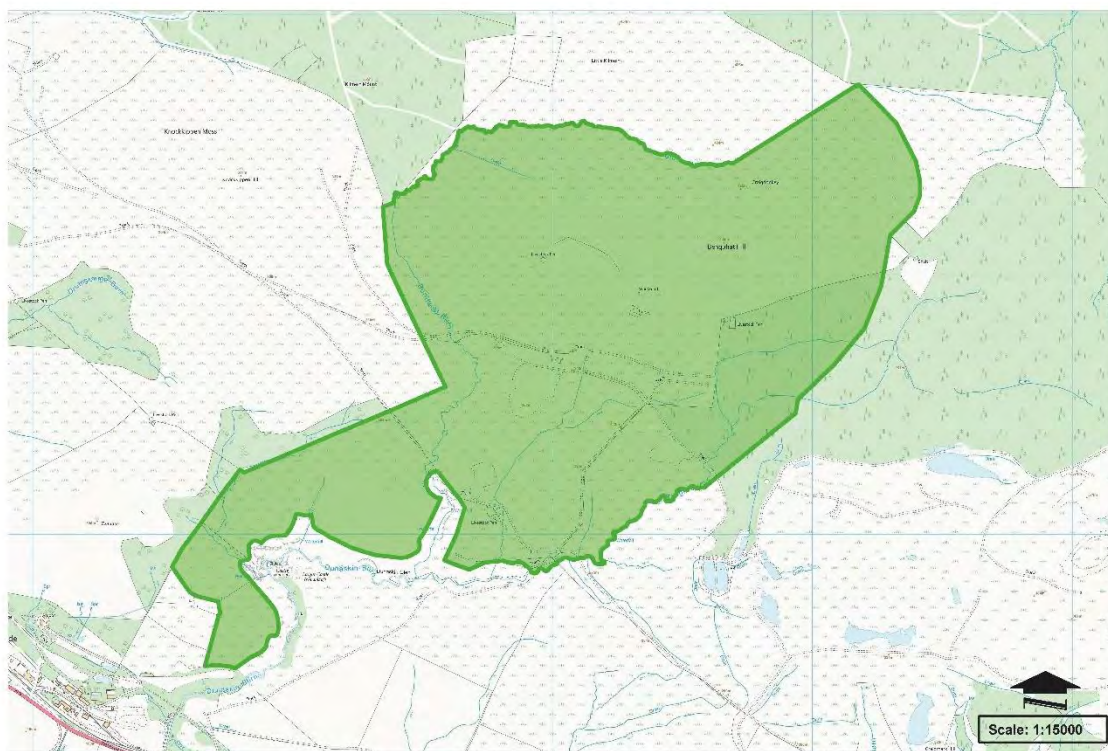
- A search on the NBN gateway identified 3 records within the site. They were the fly Chiroscia betuleti, small tortoiseshell butterfly and parsley fern Cryptogramma crispa.
- A search of the BSBI database only added tea-leaved willow from Pennyvenie Glen.

Protected Species

- Parsley fern and tea-leaved willow are locally rare.
- Raptors and or ravens may nest on the crags. Such data is usually restricted and would need to be sourced in confidence from bird recording groups.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- Given that this is an important grassland site, planting trees is not recommended in most areas.



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite / Upland grassland and gorge woodland		
Total Area (ha)	291.31	Total Area (sq m)	2913149.63
Central Grid Reference	NS4609NW		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 200 metres north-east of Waterside. The site is located to the north, west and north-east of Dunaskin Glen S.S.I.		
Interest			
Biological			
Designation Purpose			
Nature conservation			
Habitat information			
<p>Botanically rich grassland with rare plants, birds and butterflies. This area was assessed and considered to merit a Wildlife Site at the time of the last review which was undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1982.</p> <p>Dunaskin Glen is a steep-sided gorge with scattered scrubby woodland of upland character, rich ground flora and species-rich ledges and flushes. Benquhat Hill is a good example of upland grassland with rock outcrops supporting a good variety of mosses, lichens and uncommon ferns.</p>			

Habitat & Biodiversity

- A search on the NBN gateway identified 280 records within 1km of the site, including butterflies, moths and birds but mostly plants.
- The plant list indicated botanical diversity across the whole site, including the geological SSSI. It includes many locally interesting species.
- The paucity of bird records on the NBN was surprising on a site like this. This should be investigated further.

Protected Species

Birds

- Kestrel and snipe are listed amber under UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List.
- Barn owl and raven are on schedule 1 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Other

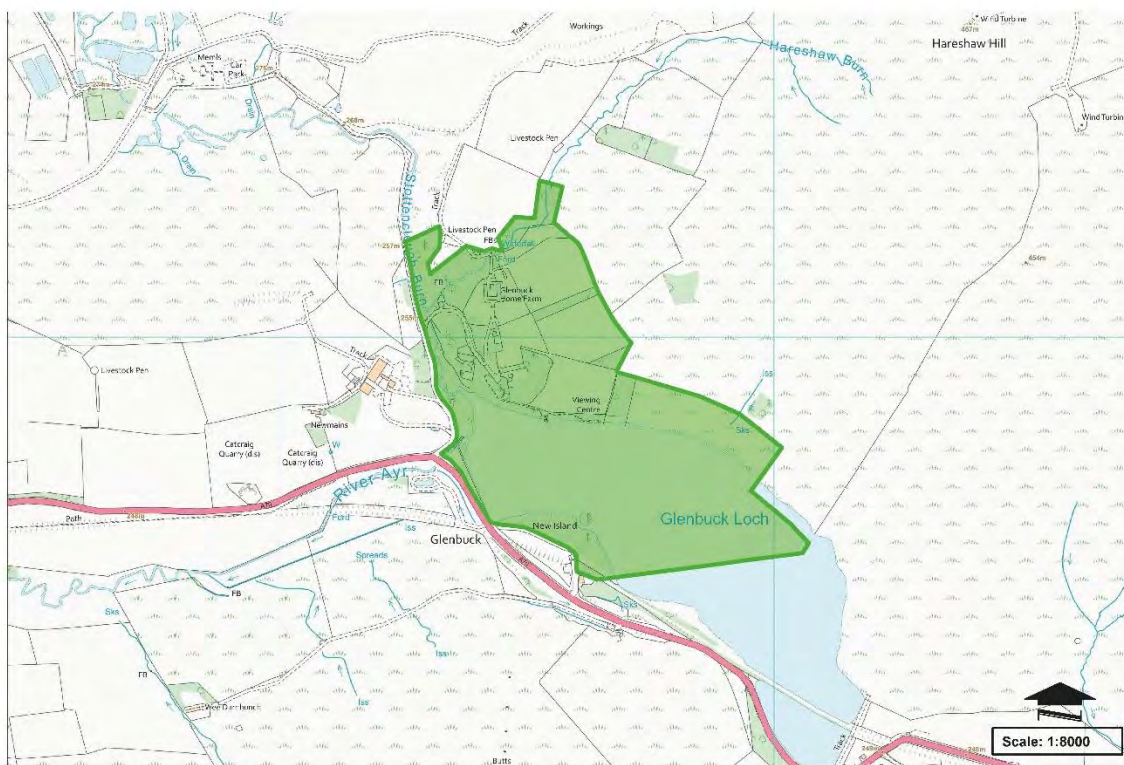
- the small heath, dingy skipper and grayling butterflies are on the Scottish Biodiversity List and considered High Priority by Butterfly Conservation. This is an unusual non-coastal location for the grayling. Scotch argus butterfly is of local interest.
- Rustyback fern, moonwort and smooth sedge are of local importance.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.
- Given that this is an important grassland site, planting trees is not recommended in most areas.

Site ID: 111

Glenbuck Loch, Woodland and Floodplain



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Primary Habitat Type	Composite		
Total Area (ha)	32.54	Total Area (sq m)	325389.26
Central Grid Reference	NS7528NE		
Context	The site is located in the east of East Ayrshire, approximately 3.2 miles north-east of Muirkirk. The site is located to the north-east of Muirkirk Uplands S.S.S.I and immediately north-west of Glenbuck Loch S.S.S.I.		
Interest			
Botanical			
Designation Purpose			
Nature conservation			
Habitat information			
Mature woodland and botanically rich loch. This area was assessed and considered to merit a Wildlife Site at the time of the last review which was undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1982.			

A variety of habitat types, including Glenbuck Loch that has good scrub/swamp areas providing an important habitat for birds; the mixed mature policy woodland around Glenbuck Home Farm which, although not botanically interesting, contributes to the habitat diversity of the site.

Habitat & Biodiversity

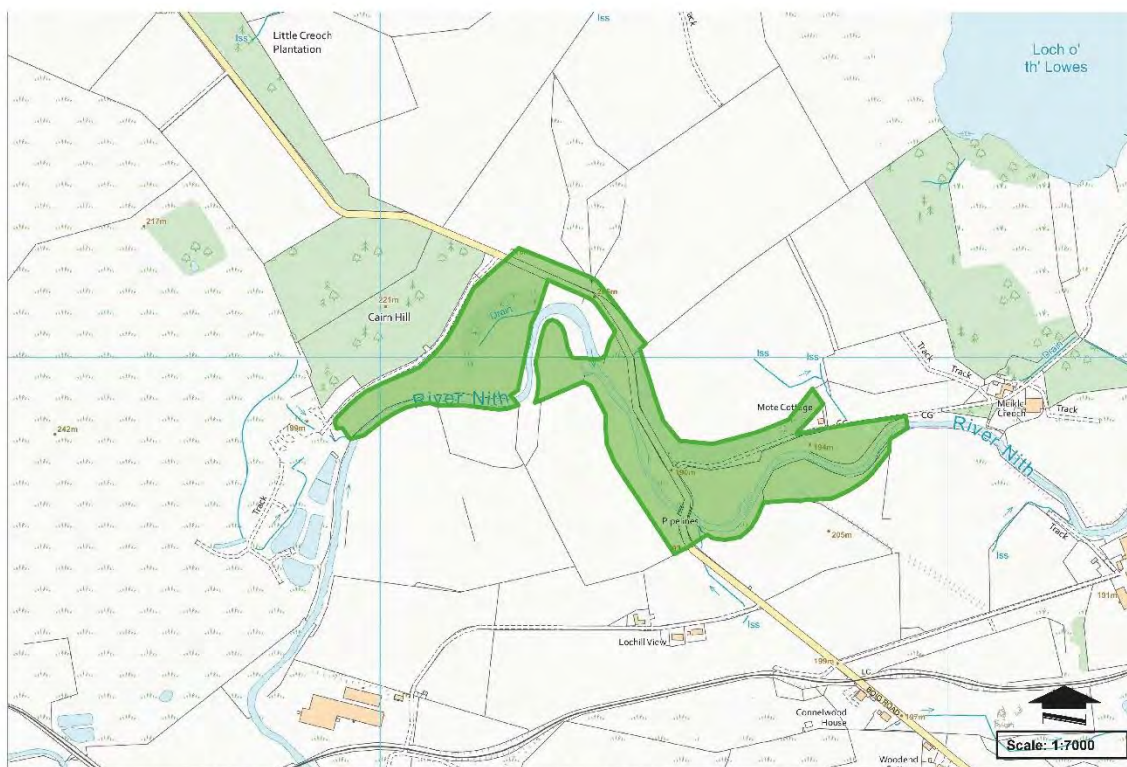
- A search on the NBN gateway identified 92 records within the site, including a few common invertebrates and many plants.
- The diversity of pondweeds and other aquatic plants is good.
- Large bodies of clean fresh water are rare in East Ayrshire.
- The lack of bird records on the NBN was surprising on a site like this. This should be investigated further.

Protected Species

- Autumnal water starwort *Callitriche hermaphrodita* and thread-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus trichophyllus* are locally rare.
- Lesser pondweed *Potamogeton pussilus* is locally scarce.
- Bright-leaved pondweed *P. x nitens*, perfoliate pondweed *P. perfoliatus*, fennel pondweed *P. pectinatus*, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* and the stonewort *Chara virgata* var. *virgata* are locally important.
- Smooth ramshorn snail *Gyraulus laevis* is locally rare.

Management

- An Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey is recommended in order to identify any areas which might require management action and protection.



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Primary Habitat Type	Grasslands		
Total Area (ha)	16.33	Total Area (sq m)	163321.02
Central Grid Reference	NS5914SW		
Context	The site is located in the south of East Ayrshire, approximately 0.7 miles north of Bankglen and 1 mile west of New Cumnock. The site encompasses Muirkirk Uplands S.S.S.I and immediately north-west of Nith Bridge S.S.S.I.		
Interest			
Habitat			
Designation Purpose			
Nature conservation			
Habitat information			
This area was assessed and considered to merit a Wildlife Site at the time of the last review which was undertaken by the Council in conjunction with Scottish Wildlife Trust in 1982.			
Species-rich grassland, a rare woodland habitat and bare earth cliffs. This small site has very high habitat diversity and high plant diversity. Many of the habitats are diverse examples of their type.			

Three unusual habitat types are present: base-rich grassland, naturally occurring bird cherry dominated scrub and towering bare earth banks.

Habitat & Biodiversity

- Slopes of heath, bird cherry scrub and species-rich grassland associated with large erosion scars and flood plain pasture at an S-shaped section of the River Nith.
- The naturalness and species-richness of the sloping ground of this site is unexpectedly high, as it is not inaccessible to agricultural improvements.
- Habitat diversity is higher than expected and nine notable plants is a good tally for such a small site.
- It is the type of place that would be attractive to invertebrates.
- The river meander is a natural phenomenon vulnerable to efforts to preserve the road and farmland.

Protected Species

- Field gentian and tea-leaved willow are locally rare.
- Bay willow, quaking grass, fragrant orchid, hairy oat-grass, greater butterfly orchid, bird cherry and round-leaved water crowfoot are of local interest.
- Scotch argus butterfly is of local interest.

Management

- The bird cherry and blackthorn scrub could be fenced to protect it from grazing pressure.
- Species-rich grassland areas would benefit from being un-grazed during the orchid season and grazed down afterwards.
- It might be possible to increase the diversity of the pastures in the bend of the river.
- There may be scope for some native woodland planting.
- Stretches of riverbank could be fenced-off to promote natural waterside vegetation, including the notable willows, to build up a healthy growth and contribute to bank stabilisation.



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