

Appendix 1 Summary of Public Consultation

Introduction

Public consultation on the Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy (AWFS) took place between 19 January and 1 March 2024.

The consultation was promoted on the Engage Angus portal and through regular posting on the Council's social media channels. Both the Strategy and an interactive digital map which supports the Strategy were available on Engage Angus. Details of the consultation were also emailed direct to 27 organisations, or a message left on their contact page on their website. These organisations included those who represent forestry, landowners, farmers, sporting interests and deer management. In addition, the Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report was also on the site and the consultation responses are contained in Appendix 2. The NatureScot response to the Habitat Regulations Appraisal is contained in Appendix 3. The Environmental Report was also advertised in The Courier newspaper on 19 January 2024 and was also sent to the Consultation Authorities (SEPA, NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland) for their responses. The site attracted 604 visits. The consultation draft was viewed/downloaded 259 times and the interactive map 86 times during the consultation period. Overall, there was 56 responses to the consultation of which 85.7% lived in Angus. Respondents have been allocated a respondent ID and these are listed in table 1.

For each of the Strategy section headings - vision, objectives, and the ten policies and two proposals - there was a question asking if the respondent supported/agreed with the appropriate part of the AWFS and these are shown under each of the headings. Support for each varied slightly but they were all supported by between 60% and 90% of respondents with the policy for Historic Environment being supported highest at 89.3%. A proportion of the remainder supported the appropriate sections of the AFWS 'in part'.

In addition, there was an optional essay question for each topic. The summary of the essay consultation responses is shown below and preceded by a short summary for each topic. These comments are reproduced in full and colour coded by theme with a proposed Council response in the preceding table.

Lastly, there was an 'any other general comments essay option' at the end of the survey and these are again colour coded by theme with a proposed Council response in the preceding table.

Table 1 Respondent ID and Organisation

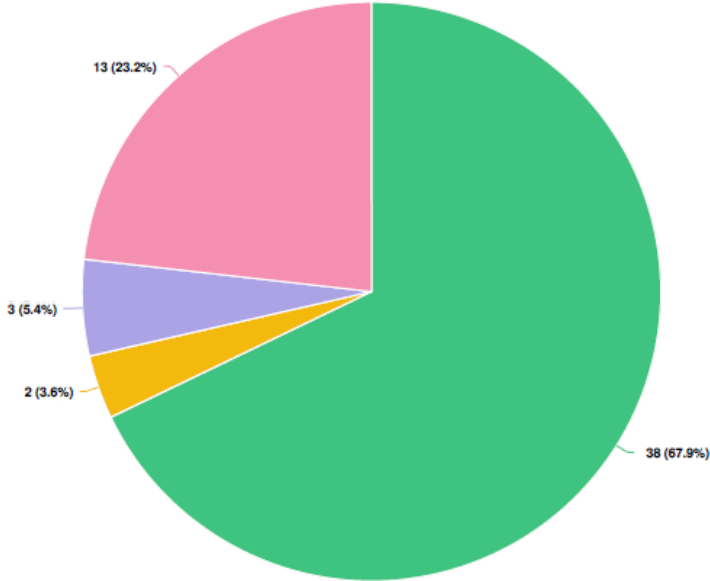
Respondent ID	Name	Organisation
FWS001	Paul Johnson	
FWS002	Andrew Matthews	Lunan Bay Communities Partnership
FWS003	Nicholas Hamilton	
FWS004	Carol Venables	
FWS005	Paul Halsall	
FWS006	Karen Cooper	
FWS007	Giles Laverack	
FWS008	Amanda Martin	
FWS009	Angela Taylor	
FWS010	John Wilson	
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey	
FWS012	Suzanne Doherty	
FWS013	Lynne Devine	
FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority
FWS015	Colin Hunter	
FWS016	Gus Guthrie	
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith	
FWS018	Kenneth Watson	
FWS019	Elizabeth Gammack	
FWS020	Hazel Forrest	Scottish Wildlife Trust
FWS021	Sheila Faichney	
FWS022	Alan Edwards	
FWS023	Kerry Richardson	
FWS024	Margaret Usher	
FWS025	Julie Cave	
FWS026	Jordan Lynch	The Alba Explorers Ltd

FWS027	Wilma Taylor	
FWS028	Sean Smith	
FWS029	Robin McIntosh	
FWS030	Ian Shand	
FWS031	Robin Johnson	
FWS032	Amy Killoh	
FWS033	Gavin Brebner	
FWS034	Ciara Gray	Perth & Kinross Council
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited
FWS036	Ryan August	
FWS037	Judith Robertson	
FWS038	Jillian Hillock	
FWS039	Louise Smith	
FWS040	Lesley Anderson	Lunan Bay Community Partnership
FWS041	Fiona Work	
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership

FWS043	Michael Hardy	
FWS044	Gerard Watts	
FWS045	D Inglis	
FWS046	Garry MacIennan	
FWS047	Robert Mearns	
FWS048	Susan Kerr	
FWS049	Keith Kirkhope	
FWS050	Anna McCabe	
FWS051	David Hunt	RSPB Scotland
FWS052	Deirdre Stewart	
FWS053	Anne Matthews	
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes	
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)
FWS056		Angus Local Access Forum
FWS057	Davie Black	Mountaineering Scotland

Vision

Do you agree with the vision?



Question options
● Yes ● No ● unsure/ no opinion ● In part

Mandatory Question (56 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Table 2: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 7 – Vision

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Flood Measures for Brechin	Respondent couldn't see flood measures for Brechin	The natural flood plains from the Glens downstream to Brechin are shown on the interactive maps. It is hoped that woodland in these areas can help slow the flow of water downstream/	No change proposed	FWS048
Detailed Consideration	A number of respondents have sought the inclusion of greater specific details which are included in the policies and their supporting text, including the health benefits of woodland, ancient woodland and more detail on matters such as flood management..	The vision is intended to be short, with the objectives providing more detail. Some of the comments of respondents is accepted, but it is hoped that respondents recognise that much of the detailed consideration is within the objectives and the topic policy sections later in the strategy and address many of the points raised. These include the protection of existing biodiversity, landscape special qualities, public access, natural flood management and peatland. These are further responded to under comments for each topic section.	No change proposed.	FWS001, FWS007, FWS010, FWS011, FWS013, FWS015, FWS016, FWS025, FWS033, FWS036, FWS037, FWS039, FWS040, FWS046, FWS047,
Balance of Priorities	Several respondents have commented on balance between productive forestry and native woodland.	To address the twin biodiversity and climate crises, we need both. Native woodland increases biodiversity. All forms of woodland and forestry store carbon and help natural flood management. Productive forestry can provide sustainable materials for example construction. Reducing our reliance on imported timber further reduces our carbon footprint. The policy of naturalistic planting of productive forestry in unimproved upland areas is important in	No change proposed.	FWS018, FWS042,

		striking the balance of priorities. Lastly, productive use of native woodland undertaken sensitively can provide financial incentive to landowners to manage and expand native woodland.		
Traditional Upland Management and people	Two respondents commented that no reference to traditional upland management and livelihoods. Were of the view that deer population data is incorrect.	<p>This strategy hopefully provides a balanced vision for the future. It recognises that land uses need to change to meet the needs for the future whilst protecting wildlife and important habitats. It provides a framework within which businesses can adapt.</p> <p>The data used is from NatureScot, mapped at one-kilometre squares and is considered correct. It is however acknowledged that there may be seasonal geographic movement of populations, but the data is considered suitable as a basis for identifying issues and the development of policy.</p>	No change proposed.	FWS044, FWS047
Pylons	A number of respondents commented on proposed pylons.	This not directly relevant to this strategy.	No change proposed.	FWS008, FWS015, FWS023,
Reduction in Farmland	One respondent concerned at potential reduction in farmed land area	The text has been updated in section 5.2 to provide further clarification in relation to agricultural land. Overall, the expectation is that new or expanded woodland and forestry will mostly be on poorer quality agricultural land.	<p>The following text has been added in the supporting text for policy 2.</p> <p>“The focus of woodland expansion should be away from prime agricultural land except where it meets the policy expectations of the Strategy”.</p>	FWS009

Targets	Respondent wishing to see targets in strategy	This has not been included within the strategy. It is intended that Angus will contribute towards Scottish targets, but no individual targets have been set for Angus.		FWS042,
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS004, FWS012, FWS019, FWS026, FWS030, FWS034, FWS042, FWS043, FWS050'

Table 3: Public Consultation Responses to Q7 - Vision

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q7 (Do you have any comments on the vision? If you do not agree or only partly agree please explain.)
FWS001	Paul Johnson		Missing - that people benefit from experiencing a woodland first hand - feeling tranquility and connecting to nature, fresh air, reducing stress and improving mental health. There is a quality of life aspect that should form part of the vision.
FWS004	Carol Venables		Not everywhere needs changing, places like Crombie are great as they are
FWS007	Giles Laverack		Trees and woodland are being lost from the landscape continuously and an important aspect of policy should be to prevent any further loss, especially preventing farmers from removing trees in arable areas where remaining trees are often scarce and play an important role in connectivity and flood and erosion prevention.
FWS008	Amanda Martin		To oppose the industrialisation of our lands with super pylons and substations as it will detract from the beauty.
FWS009	Angela Taylor		Am concerned about possible reduction in farmland
FWS010	John Wilson		Special concern and further protection is required for ancient natural woodland, especially along watercourses. Near and far vistas should be protected from creeping industrial development.

FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		Flood Management cannot be captured in a single sentence of Slowing the flow of rainfall. This is far too simplistic. We need to hold and manage the slower release in the hills and once the water hits the lower regions, it has have a clear route to exit as fast and unincumbered as possible.
FWS012	Suzanne Doherty		Native woodland species would be ideal. Great if it helps with flooding issues as well.
FWS013	Lynne Devine		The Millenium forests which exist at present need more management. Otherwise I agree with everything in the Vision with a lot of emphasis on natural flood management.
FWS015	Colin Hunter		I broadly agree with the vision. However, I have lived in Angus for some 10 years (7 years in Careston) and would say that the landscape is changing fairly rapidly now in places and this might be better recognised in the Strategy. In particular, it seems to me that new pockets of winter surface water flooding (greater than currently recognised in SEPA surface water flood maps) are forming on farm land, becoming pockets of almost bog land during summer. There is one such area just north of Careston. I have noticed curlew and lapwing using this area during the summer. It seems to me that such areas may constitute important emerging wildlife habitats where new woodland might best be avoided. This said, woodland would be preferable to yet another line of electricity pylons (SSEN Kintore to Tealing proposal) running through/close to the Angus Glens. How will this development impact the woodland Strategy? I note the scenic qualities of the landscape around Careston mentioned on page 53 of the Appendix.
FWS016	Gus Guthrie		Wildlife will need a chance to thrive without undue disturbance
FWS018	Kenneth Watson		Not sure why amenity Woods need to provide high quality timber? Surely the value to the climate emergency is living trees?
FWS019	Elizabeth Gammack		The damage to the Angus forests due to the storms over the last few years needs to be addressed as a major initiative to replanting of the lost woodlands and to save our countryside for future generations
FWS021	Sheila Faichney		The most important element of this for me is environmental sustainability and resilience and protection of existing native woodland from development and exploitation.
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		Huge concerns about what the pylons and SSEN proposals will mean to our landscape and trees. Totally agree we need to plant more trees for flood protection
FWS025	Julie Cave		I agree with the vision but do not want to see measures such as culling deer or other animals and birds in order to save trees, as has been adopted in other areas of forestry management

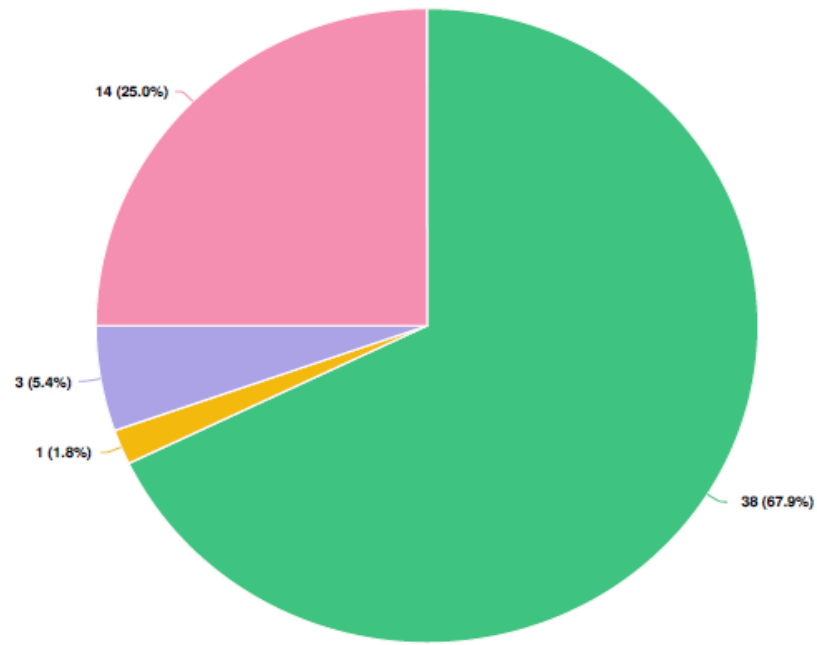
FWS026	Jordan Lynch	The Alba Explorers Ltd	We wholeheartedly agree with the vision and would love to be one of the local businesses more fully involved with its realisation
FWS030	Ian Shand		Forestry and woodland is so important for the natural defence against flooding. With all the deforestation that is ongoing at present, it is vital that these be reinstated.
FWS031	Robin Johnson		Forestry needs to be planted which will NOT be exploited for commercial timber, because harvesting that timber destroys the natural biodiverse habitat which has taken to long to become established there. Forestry needs to be planted which will be protected in perpetuity, with nature allowed to manage itself and fully protected from any interference by humans, including using it for leisure.
FWS033	Gavin Brebner		There is a need to ensure that the priorities are correct. While there is a need to ensure the expansion of forest and the commercial interests, the access for recreation and education must also either increase or be at least maintained.
FWS034	Ciara Gray	Perth & Kinross Council	Agree with the vision contained within the Draft Strategy, as it reflects well 'Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029' Vision and Key Strategic Drivers, and the themes of the UK Forestry Standard.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	It is welcome to see that the vision includes increasing timber production however we would like to see a greater emphasis put on the benefits of productive forestry for the local economy in Angus in which it provides and supports jobs as well as contributing significantly to carbon capture and biodiversity.
FWS036	Ryan August		As identified in the reports Angus has a large percentage of arable land. The people living in these areas can have less access to woodland than those in the towns. The strategy should not only focus on access for people in towns. (I am lucky enough to not be in that situation)
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Due to the ever changing weather now dominated by high winds and high rainfall we should be selecting only native species which are suited to this type of weather and can thrive in these condition. Cropping Spruce forest is not aligned with the principle of conservation, its is commercially driven for financial gain. We dont even have the right environmental conditions to grow commercial forests, the temperature is too high and the root plate is too shallow.
FWS039	Louise Smith		The Angus glens are covered in heather and peat moorland which hold carbon already, destroying this precious habitat is detrimental to the wide range of species that can only live in this type of habitat. 78% of the world's heather grows here in Scotland, in particular, the hills of Angus. I have nothing against planting trees, but a more balanced approach is required, you can't just tick the boxes and expect everything to thrive, it needs balance.

FWS040	Lesley Anderson	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	The vision should also protect existing landscapes.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	<p>I couldn't see your target for increased % of woodland creation. From 10.7% to what and by when. Incremental growth within the lifespan of the plan ideal and by native and non native. Angus does have a strong agricultural element but a vast hectarage of less favoured area which would be perfect for plantation forestry and native planting, right up to montane planting. Landowners failing to reduce their deer numbers to the required maximum of 4 per ha for their sport shooting income must be addressed. There is significant income, let alone a vast list of benefits to tree planting which would negate lost income from sport shooting. Though many landowners will state that it's not the money, it's the enjoyment of it.</p> <p>Farmers must be encouraged to plant trees to diversify income, which is largely their biggest issue, income rules. At Lunan Bay the loss of top soil is phenomenal every year. There are no trees to stabilise the over ploughed sandy soil. Flooding is rife, riparian planting here would greatly alleviate the constant flooding. I could go on. I worked in this field for 11 years. The problems persist.</p>
FWS043	Michael Hardy		As a gamekeeper we need woods but there are more grey squirrels and more irresponsible dog walkers. We need food too.
FWS044	Gerard Watts		Absolutely no mention of those who inhabit these areas.
FWS045	D Inglis		The moorlands and farmland in Angus currently store co2 there's no need to take more land for forestry.
FWS046	Garry Maclennan		I see a negative impact on ground nesting birds such as curlew lapwing loosing habitat to reforestation. I may also effect prey species for golden eagles and hen harriers
FWS047	Robert Mearns		<p>The vision fails to recognise traditional heritage of the upland areas, misquoting and misleading with regards to deer densities. It also states that deer numbers need to be reduce to create natural regeneration. At these numbers the economic viability for stalking areas will be impossible, reducing actual employment in the Glen's, this will lead to local depopulation and loss of service's in these rural areas. Also loosing the staff that have the ability manage deer populations and that maintain access to these estates.</p> <p>If trees are planted, they need to be fenced to avoid any damage from herbivores (deer(red and roe predominantly in Angus), hares(mountain and brown), rabbits and sheep). Also if trees are planted there needs to be suitable terrain left for raptors such as golden Eagle and Peregrines to hunt and for there prey to thrive. There needs to be suitable open areas left for wading birds though live and breed on that's not close to afforestation areas to avoid being preyed upon by foxes.</p>

FWS048	Susan Kerr		I couldn't see flood measure areas in Brechin on the interactive map.
FWS050	Anna McCabe		Forests and woodlands are very important for wildlife, bio diversity, preventing floods, where I live on the Angus/Aberdeenshire border they have just felled loads of trees on the hill near us, when it rains the water runs down the hill flooding the fields and roads, the woodland which was there prevented this from happening. Forests are great to walk in they leave you with a sense of peace and tranquility, they are also used by so many different people cyclists, dog walkers, foraging for mushrooms and berries. It is important that we stop the destruction of our woodlands and countryside with the construction of substations, storage stations and pylons.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		The vision must specify that the woodland will be primarily native broadleaf plus Scots Pine with some designated forestry areas of non-native conifer. The woodland/forestry areas must be interconnected to build corridors of biodiversity and on a scale large enough to make the woodlands self-sustaining.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	Whilst ScotWays agrees predominantly with the Strategy's Vision, it considers that attractive opportunities for access need not be confined to areas "close to where people live and work": forests and woodlands can provide such opportunities throughout Angus, with potential for attracting visitors to the area to enjoy 'green tourism'.

Objectives

Do you agree with the objectives?



Question options

- Yes
- No
- unsure/ no opinion
- In part

Table 4: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 9 – Objectives

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Forestry Products	Respondent advised of range of products from productive forestry in addition to sustainable construction.	Accepted that there are a range of different products. In addition, the strategy seeks more sustainable construction. .	No change proposed.	FWS035
Detailed Consideration	A number of respondents have sought the inclusion of greater specific details.	Much of the comments of respondents is accepted, but it is hoped that respondents recognise that much of the detailed consideration is within the topic policy sections later in the strategy and address many of the points raised. These include the protection of existing biodiversity, landscape special qualities, public access, natural flood management and peatland. These are further responded to under comments for each topic section.	No change proposed.	FWS001, FWS007, FWS011, FWS018, FWS019, FWS021, FWS025, FWS029, FWS035, FWS037, FWS042, FWS044, FWS045, FWS046, FWS048, FWS053, FWS054, FWS055,
Productive Forestry	One respondent suggested that objective was deliberately ambiguous in terms of whether an increase in the area of productive forestry or to make forestry more productive.	Not intended as such. The intention would an increase in overall area to contribute towards the targets of the Scottish Government and the Scottish Forestry Strategy.	No change proposed	FWS023
Deer	Respondents commenting on deer management. Some do not support deer	This is discussed in detail in section 5.9. The introduction of predators such as lynx	No change proposed	FWS036, FWS039, FWS044,

	culling another seeks introduction of predators.	is considered a national issue and not within the scope of this strategy		
Pylons	One respondent commented on proposed pylons and that they would destroy the local landscape.	This not directly relevant to this strategy as this strategy relates to forestry and woodland.	No change proposed.	FWS017
Education	Respondent suggested that education should be included in strategy	Generally accepted as important but not directly within the scope of the strategy. This may however come through associated project development.	No change proposed.	FWS033
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS010, FWS013, FWS015, FWS017, FWS031,

Table 5: Public Consultation Responses to Q9 - Objectives

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q9 (Do you have any comments on the vision. If do not support it or only partly support it please explain.) NB due to an error, the question referred to Vision rather than Objectives. The Objectives were however included above the question therefore most respondents seem to have understood the question.
FWS001	Paul Johnson		Plus - ensuring the widest access for people to experience woodland. Point 8 include "... woodland recreation and well-being ..."
FWS007	Giles Laverack		It's a good vision but this appears to be only a outline of a policy rather than a strategy as it lacks any information about how the vision will be realised.

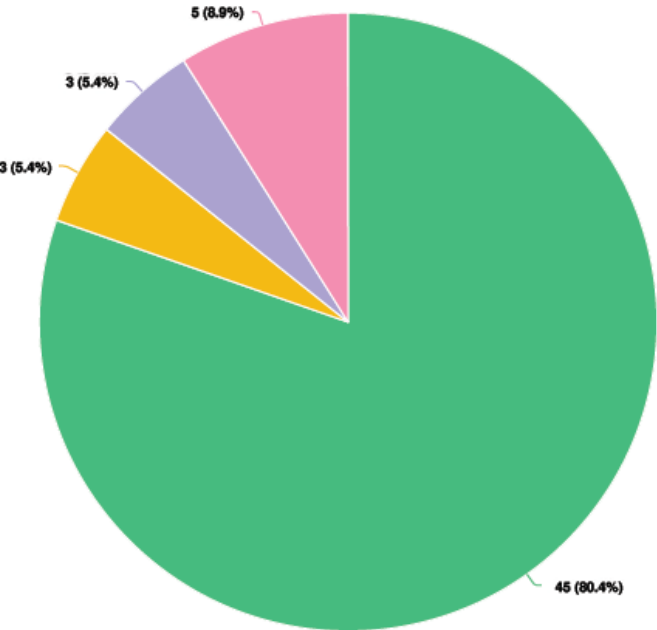
FWS010	John Wilson		All very good goals but further protection should be in place for the whole area, including views and vistas to coastal, Angus hills and Cairngorms. Many businesses rely on the scenic and environmental elements of Angus and Tayside, indeed the whole of Scotland...it is unique.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		3: Riparian woodland. This is again too simplistic. South River Esk, east of the A90 The riparian trees are trapping water bourn debris, which is then acting as a dam for miles, forcing the water to pool and flood. This is contributing to the flooding. If river bank erosion is a concern, this needs to be addressed with a proper review of the methodology used.
FWS013	Lynne Devine		I think that unfortunately there will need to be a significant culling of deer to enable natural regeneration to take place. There also needs to be control over sheep grazing in uplands as they too eat seedlings.
FWS015	Colin Hunter		see previous answer to question 7.
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith		I think the vision is brilliant and I 100% back it. I just wonder how SSENs monster pylons fit with this plan? How can Angus expect to achieve all these wonderful things if these monstrosities destroy our local landscape.
FWS018	Kenneth Watson		Timber for sustainable building?? Will this lead to more "green deserts" of monoculture single tree type plantations with very little biodiversity? Better to plan for sustainable natural regeneration and selective felling.
FWS019	Elizabeth Gammack		None of the available land should be used for anything other than these objectives and the land usage other than vital current agricultural usage could possibly be expanded to aid in a carbon neutral environment
FWS021	Sheila Faichney		There is potential for the interests of commercial forestry to conflict with those of biodiversity and access.
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		Concerns about the increase area of productive forestry...do you mean increase forest in general or make the forest area you already manage more productive? Deliberately ambiguous question
FWS025	Julie Cave		I agree in principle but would like to understand the proposed practices

FWS029	Robin McIntosh		Objective 6 should focus on more suitable native species to ensure that storm devastation is mitigated.
FWS031	Robin Johnson		I agree with objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 9. I do not agree with objectives 4, 6, 7, 8.
FWS033	Gavin Brebner		Education should be included in the strategy.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	Objective 6: Productive forestry has the opportunity to create and support a range of different products and not just sustainable building material though the mention of this is welcome. Instead the focus should be on sustainable forest products to include fencing materials, chip, biomass and pallet products as well as timber exports to Europe from ports of Montrose which supports and grows the local economy. Objective 7: It is unclear (and should be defined clearly in the document) what is meant by not obstructing landscape features including hills and riverbanks. There are times when the necessity of deer fencing will make these less accessible for a time in order to allow woodland to be established and access can be maintained through the provision of suitable gates or crossings. Where there are small blocks, access provision is not necessary.
FWS036	Ryan August		Deer management does not mention other possible methods of control and/or exploitation. E.g. predator reintroductions, improved marketing of deer products, venison, leather antler. No recognition that land use can be as a tourism resource.
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Remove the Deer and the trees will thrive, thats proven and what Anders Poulson is directing his efforts towards. Restrict the ares of productive forestry our climate is not suited for commercial tree growth, Northern Scandanavian and Canada are suited to commercials forestry.
FWS039	Louise Smith		Stop killing or fencing out the deer in order to protect trees, they can live side by side when woodland has established, expect a percentage will be eaten by animals, deal with it, all out eradication is wrong.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Where is protecting ancient woodland and individual ancient trees? And where are your targets?

FWS044	Gerard Watts		Need to consult the locals
FWS045	D Inglis		There is no need to change the current biodiversity in Angus rather we should be preserving and maintain the existing unique nature of Angus.
FWS046	Garry Maclennan		Commercial forestry is not good for biodiversity it's a blanket monoculture. I would like to see more riparian forestry up watercourses.
FWS048	Susan Kerr		Don't want too many cheap quick trees for timber.
FWS053	Anne Matthews		I hope that Objective 5, (to increase the contribution of forests and woodland to mitigate the effects of climate change) can be actively pursued collaboratively with Angus area agricultural landowners and farming businesses so that these sectors can be proactively encouraged in engaging with both this objective and with Objective 9 to find opportunities especially where these objectives jointly can intersect and overlap.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		Where forests are to be felled for commercial purposes, these should not be clear-felled but felled progressively to allow species such as red squirrels and pine martens, owls, birds of prey, insects and native plants to have a chance to regroup and survive. The devastating practice of clear-felling is environmental vandalism, giving those species that have taken up residence there no consideration whatever. Trees grown over a 30+ year period are not akin to an agricultural crop -- they develop their own ecosystems and clear-felling destroys everything.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	As per the Vision, the objective of increasing opportunities for forest and woodland recreation should not be qualified by the phrase "close to where people live", as forests and woodland can provide such opportunities throughout Angus. The qualification could be amended to read, "...primarily close to where people live". The words "and green tourism" could be inserted in the objective after the word 'recreation'.

Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value

Do you support Policy 1: Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value?



Question options
● Yes ● No ● unsure/ no opinion ● In part

Table 6: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 11 – Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Delivery	Two respondents enquiring on how it will be delivered and afforded within council financial constraints.	Most of the content of the strategy can be grant aided through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme. In addition, partnership projects can sometimes help create funding opportunities.	No change proposed	FWS007, FWS045,
Definition of Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value	One respondent unsure of definition.	The definition is contained within 5.1 of the strategy. The questionnaire only contains a summary.	No change proposed	FWS035
Weak Policies	Respondent concerned that policy wording weak.	This has been reviewed and we have strengthened 1(a). Other aspects of the policy require a level of operational interpretation by Scottish Forestry and consultees.	Policy wording has been strengthened in 1(a) to: "Proposals will not be supported where they result in any loss of WHNCV".	FWS037
Ancient trees	Respondent considers there should be presumption against the loss of ancient trees or those of biodiversity value.	Tree felling is controlled by felling licence regulations as administered by Scottish Forestry. Where there are veteran trees within forests or woodlands it is typical that they are retained within felling proposals.	No change proposed.	FWS042
Grey Squirrels	A respondent has asked whether grey squirrel management will be included.	The council is currently investigating this matter.	No change proposed	FWS020

Unmanaged Native Woodlands	Respondent FWS031 seeks no human intervention and FWS036 seeks to limit commercial use of native woodlands.	Unfortunately our native woodland may not always recover without assistance for example to control grazing. It is important that native woodland has a value to the landowner and sensitive commercial woodland management is not incompatible with nature conservation. It can provide an incentive for native woodland management and expansion.	No change proposed.	FWS031, FWS036
Biodiversity Interest	Concern that conservation interest may be reduced by naïve woodland expansion onto areas which have had no woodland for many years.	Scottish Forestry can ask for habitat surveys as required.	No change proposed.	FWS046
Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value Regeneration Zones	Suggestion that the distance between non-native productive forestry be increased from 50m to either 100m or 150m	The natural regeneration distance of 50m is the distance within which satisfactory levels of regeneration from trees can occur. This distance matches that within the UK Forestry Standard. The reasoning to protect native woodland from self-seeded exotic conifers is understood, but it may potentially sterilise areas for productive use. It is understood that the control of invasive species is a normal requirement.	Policy 1(g) now includes the following text which encourages greater than 50m. "In such cases, woodland expansion through natural regeneration at least 50m from a site will be preferred". .	FWS014
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS021, FWS025, FWS028, FWS034, FWS050, FWS055,

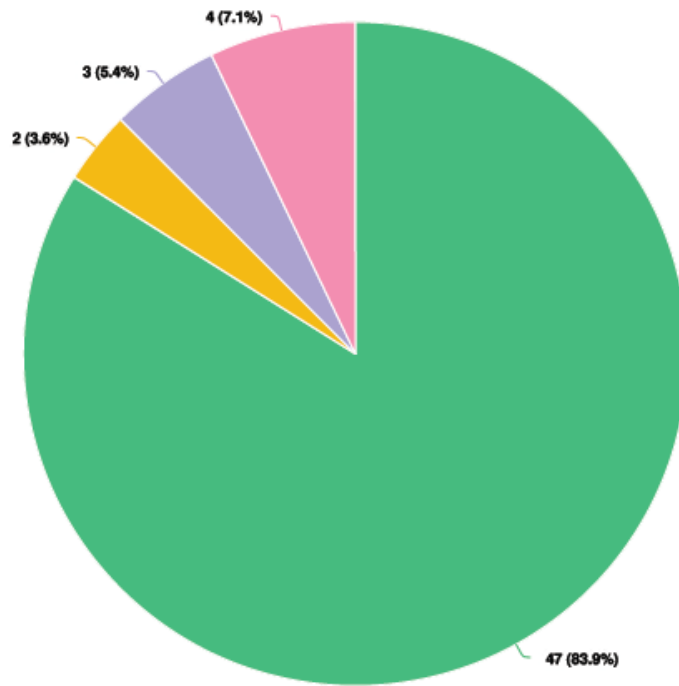
Table 7: Public Consultation Responses to Q11 – Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q11 (Do you have any comments on Policy 1? If you do not support it or only partly please explain why.)
FWS007	Giles Laverack		'supported', 'encouraged' - how exactly? What is the mechanism of this support and encouragement?
FWS010	John Wilson		I do have concerns that undue intervention has an opposite outcome from that desired.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		It has to take into account the entire impact on the people and property with Angus. There cannot be blanket policies if they are detrimental to the safety of residences and livelihoods.
FWS013	Lynne Devine		Concerned now about the decrease in funding which AC will need to do everything.
FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Perhaps suggest, given voracious regeneration of non-natives, that the buffer under item (h) is increased to 100 or 150m
FWS020	Hazel Forrest	Scottish Wildlife Trust	Will grey squirrel management be included in management plans for woodlands of high nature conservation value? Red squirrels are still present in Angus and are an important part of our native woodland ecosystems. Reds are threatened by competition and squirrelpox transmission from greys (although squirrelpox is not currently present in Angus, yet). Allowing red squirrels to thrive in Angus' native woodlands by removing the threat from greys would inherently increase their nature conservation value. Additionally, at high densities, grey squirrels are known to have a detrimental effect on medium-aged broadleaved woodlands through bark-stripping. It would therefore be pertinent to keep grey squirrel densities as low as possible in all of Angus' broadleaved woodlands to minimise negative impacts on woodland health and commercial value of plantations.
FWS021	Sheila Faichney		See my previous comment on conflicts of interest.
FWS025	Julie Cave		Would need to know more to be able to form an opinion
FWS028	Sean Smith		Great ideas in there

FWS031	Robin Johnson		I broadly agree, but more woodland needs to be established which is NOT 'managed' by humans. Much more truly natural woodland, where once planted, nature is allowed to manage itself needs to be created.
FWS034	Ciara Gray	Perth & Kinross Council	Agree with the inclusion of Policy 1, and the identification of Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value in the Draft Strategy. This is in line with national planning policies with respect to climate change, biodiversity, natural places, forestry, woodland and trees.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	It is not clear what constitutes Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value or what the parameters for this have been. This is a concern because the document then makes some quite restrictive policy statements on what can and can't happen close to these areas and specifically section h) for which there is no justification (we assume for the purposes of natural regeneration however this could sterilise large areas of Angus from commercial woodland expansion which does not appear to be backed by science in the document nor has been explained how this decision has been reached). This could have significant economic effects on the area and limit areas which are suitable for the expansion of commercially grown timber. There is already an accepted buffer implemented around existing native woodland for most proposals which can be between 10m to a tree length depending on the situation. It is easier to adhere to a set of common standards i.e the UKFS.
FWS036	Ryan August		Generally very good. Item f is probably misleading. It's implication is that you can commercially manage WHNCV and will put a lot of pressure on planners from powerful landowners. Better to draw a line (given rarity of these sites) and say no commercial management, at least for now.
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Proposals to extend woodland of high nature conservation value will be MANDATORY, particularly where they have the potential to form woodland habitat networks, which will increase climate change resilience. In such cases, woodland expansion through natural regeneration where it within 50m of a site will be preferred. The words are weak, there should be legally binding legislation behind POLICY, otherwise there are exposed loopholes and the objectives are not fully managed and quality assured, never mind achievable.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	There should be a presumption of no loss of ancient trees or trees of significant value in the landscape either to biodiversity or for people.

FWS043	Michael Hardy		As someone who lives and works in the countryside and on a low wage. Who will control vermin, and the scott government want more deer culled. It all costs money. I control grey squirrels too.
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS046	Garry MacLennan		d) it would depend on how long that area had not had trees on it to then change it back to trees potentially has a negative impact to plants and other species living there
FWS050	Anna McCabe		It's an excellent policy it's important to ensure woodlands are looked after, properly managed and are diverse especiaaly with the re-introduction of shrubs and bushes. It will also protect wildlife and hopefully educate more people on how woodlands work and the need for them to be prpperly managed.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays's comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.

Do you support Proposal 1 Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value?



Question options

- Yes
- No
- not sure/ no opinion
- In part

Table 8: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 13 – Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Widespread afforestation	Respondent supports more trees but not widespread afforestation.	This strategy supports the Scottish Forestry Strategy in delivering increased woodland and forestry. This strategy does however seek to guide where this happens.	No changes proposed.	FWS046
Consultation with land managers	Respondent emphasises the value of engaging with land managers.	Generally agreed. Decisions will be made on how to involve land managers as the project is progressed. It may for example be geographically specific or involve pilot projects.	No changes proposed.	FWS054
Delivery	Respondents enquiring on how it will be delivered and afforded within council financial constraints.	Most of the content of the strategy can be grant aided through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme. In addition, partnership projects can sometimes help create funding opportunities.	No change proposed	FWS045
Unmanaged Native Woodlands	Respondent FWS031 seeks no human intervention and FWS036 seeks to limit commercial use of native woodlands.	Unfortunately our native woodland may not always recover without assistance for example to control grazing. It is important that native woodland has a value to the landowner and sensitive commercial woodland management is not incompatible with nature conservation. It can provide an incentive for native woodland management and expansion.	No change proposed.	FWS031
Request for moratorium on tree felling	One respondent requested a moratorium on tree felling whilst the	We have no powers for a blanket moratorium. Tree felling is already	No changes proposed	FWS036

	project is being formulated.	controlled through felling licence regulation and administered by Scottish Forestry.		
Project detail and quality objectives	A number of respondents commented on need for project details and quality objectives to be clear.	Agreed. This will be developed when the project is being considered.	No changes proposed.	FWS10, FWS14, FWS17, FWS36, FWS37
Opinion regarding previous grant schemes	Respondent provided examples of how previous grant schemes encouraged the management of native woodland.	Many thanks, we will look into that further when exploring constraints and opportunities to assess options for developing a project.	No change proposed.	FWS035
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS011, FWS25, FWS034, FWS042, FWS053, FWS055

Table 9: Public Consultation Responses to Q13 - Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value

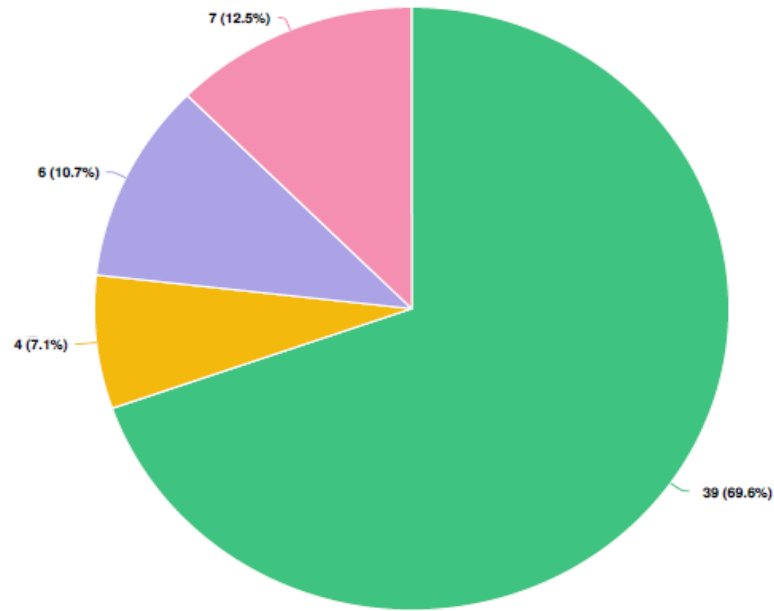
Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q13 (Do you have any comments on Proposal 1? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS010	John Wilson		It must be done carefully and sensibly,
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		Just because it appears negative does not mean it is.
FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority	In principle this proposal is sound, in practice I think many of the reasons are well understood and 'developing a project to address if required' might be very ambitious!
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith		We need to stop projects on our local landscapes that are going to destroy our environment for us and the future generations.
FWS025	Julie Cave		Need more information to form an opinion

FWS031	Robin Johnson		More woodland needs to be established which is NOT 'managed' by humans.
FWS034	Ciara Gray	Perth & Kinross Council	Proposal 1 seems to be a sensible and logical proposal to take forward.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	We would be pleased to explore these constraints as the positive management of these was previously funded through the WGS 2 and 3 e.g. livestock exclusion grants and annual management grants. Grants enable landowners to positively manage these sites without which there is no incentive to undertake conservation projects.
FWS036	Ryan August		Supported but objectives need to be clearer. Until such a project has been completed there needs to be a moratorium on 'commercial management' which I take to mean tree felling
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Quality management and compliance to WHNCV should be regulated to assure delivery.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	See comments in 11
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS046	Garry MacLennan		While i believe that we need trees to help with climate change. I also don't agree with wide spread reforestation
FWS053	Anne Matthews		I am concerned about the impact of Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 which seems to bring a new overlaying regime that can prioritise a national Government objective over and above a regional or local authority policy and I hope Angus Council will be robust in promoting its policy 1 if such circumstances should arise.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		Landowners and especially farmers need to be closely consulted, not alienated. Angus has a high proportion of farmed arable land and the farming community will be vital in bringing about an increase in woodland and hedgerows. A commitment to widening hedgerow boundaries, allowing woodland to develop in marginal field corners and releasing land for much wider field margins to protect hedge-tree roots must be sought through financial incentives, good farming practices and public awareness of which farms are working for the public good by enhancing biodiversity.

FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays's comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.
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Productive Forestry

Do you support Policy 2: Productive Forestry?



Question options

- Yes
- No
- Unsure/ no opinion
- In part

Mandatory Question (56 response(s))

Table 10: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 15 – Productive Forestry

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
<p>Negative wording relating to productive forestry, species choice and windfirmness.</p>	<p>Respondent considers that the strategy con</p>	<p>The wording is specifically designed to support productive forestry in all but certain circumstances. This was a deliberate choice which increases opportunities. Turning the policy around to indicate where it would be appropriate would inevitably be more restrictive.</p> <p>In terms of species selection, we recognise that site specific suitability will vary. The preference for Scots pine on upland semi-natural habitats recognises sensitivities and the greater suitability of pine for planting in heather. It is likely also no coincidence that the natural association of pine and heather within habitat type NVC W18 is predicted to have been the natural woodland cover in many upland areas. Given sensitivities, mixed planting would create a more naturalistic character and if structurally diverse should be more windfirm than homogenous plantations. With climate change, it is predicted that overall in Angus, Scots pine is likely to become more suitable than Sitka spruce in the future. Lastly, pine has different uses, some of which it is considered superior to spruce.</p>	<p>No changes proposed.</p>	<p>FWS035</p>

Funding for mixed forests	One respondent enquired if there was funding for mixed species forestry.	It is understood that mixed species forests attract additional funding through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme.	No changes proposed.	FWS012
Technical terminology	One respondent disapproved of technical language	The concern is accepted. In drafting the strategy, we have sought that it is understandable to general members of the public, but at the same time being technically clear to those who will be implementing it. This has been a challenge and hopefully the glossary will help understanding. We will review the glossary and supplement it as necessary.	Glossary will be supplemented as necessary.	FWS011
Peatland and heather moorland	Some respondents would not support woodland or forestry on peatland or heather moorland.	The strategy protects peatlands from woodland and forestry. Much of the highest ground is unsuitable for woodland or forestry, but montane woodland or scrub may be the natural vegetation. Upland heath managed by burning has created a simplified ecosystem which is not botanically diverse. Modelling has shown that much of these areas would naturally be native pine woodland often with birch and other native trees within which heather would be a component as can be seen in other parts of the Cairngorms. Protected species in upland areas are protected by other policies within this strategy.	No changes proposed.	FWS023, FWS039, FWS046,
NVC W18	Respondent suggested that the transition from heather moorland to W18 woodland type may not be immediately feasible without pioneer species,	Accepted as a possibility. There is a large range of growing conditions, and much will depend upon individual site assessment and this would be considered at an operational level.	No changes proposed	FWS036

Funding	Respondent suggested maintaining what we have only due to funding limitations.	The management and expansion of Woodland and forestry is grant funded through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme. Further funding may become available through partnership projects.	No change proposed.	FWS045
Roads and tracks	Respondent concerned that new forestry and woodland may require new roads and tracks.	This is considered within policy 7 the supporting text states: “Critical to any assessment of impacts on special qualities would be how harvesting would be carried out. New timber haul roads can have unacceptable impacts upon special qualities, including wildness”.	No changes proposed.	FWS033
Timber Harvesting and biodiversity	Respondent believes that timber harvesting destroys biodiversity.	Harvesting is a necessity for a sustainable society. There is substantial scope to increase the use of timber, particularly in construction to reduce the use of cement-based products with a high carbon footprint. Whilst some temporary damage is unavoidable, good practice within the UK Forestry Standard help minimise impacts and for example should avoid contamination of watercourses. Well managed productive forestry can contribute towards biodiversity, particularly when native species are used.	No changes proposed	FWS031
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS004, FWS010, FWS018, FWS025, FWS034, FWS037, FWS042, FWS047, FWS054, FWS055

Table 11: Public Consultation Responses to Q15 – Productive Forestry

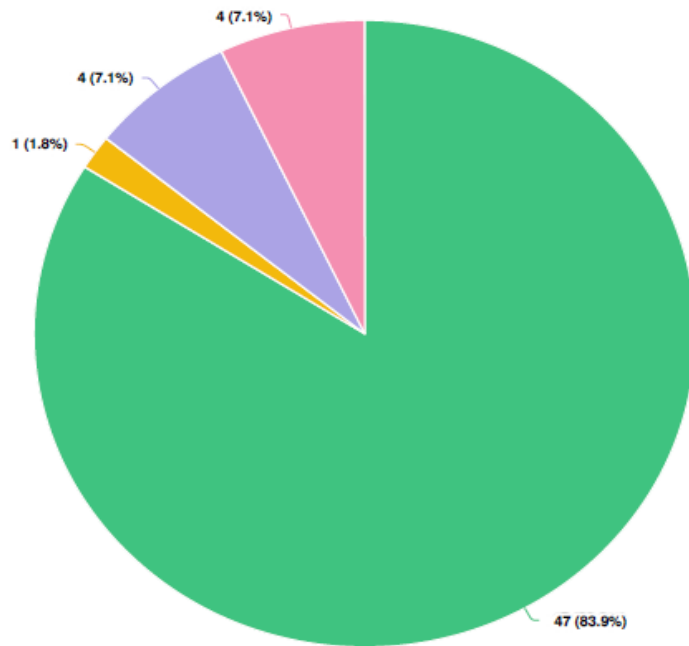
Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q15 (Do you have any comments on Policy 2? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS004	Carol Venables		Replanting needs to be done
FWS010	John Wilson		Tree plantations are a crop like any other and should be used as such. There is a requirement for timber production that is economic.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		This is full of technical terms and terms no in common parlance.. How can the public give a clear view when you are using technical terms such as "non clear felling" "NVC W18" Therefore I cannot make a judgement on what you are proposing as I do not understand it.
FWS012	Suzanne Doherty		Agree with mixed forests. Are there incentives for land owners to diversify current monoculture areas?
FWS018	Kenneth Watson		See previous comments for concerns
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		Peatland and moor should be preserved
FWS025	Julie Cave		More information required
FWS031	Robin Johnson		Harvesting timber destroys the biodiverse habitat which has taken to long to be established in and around the trees.
FWS033	Gavin Brebner		Will this require further roads and land rover tracks to be created? Increasing forest is worthwhile but decreasing real wilderness and remote areas may not be helpful for recreation and tourism and education.
FWS034	Ciara Gray	Perth & Kinross Council	Again, appears to align with national policy and UK Standards.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	We are disappointed by the negative wording of this where productive forestry is portrayed as the worst form of forestry and can only be considered where it doesn't conflict with any part of the rest of the policy. This is contradictory to early parts of the policy and vision which have highlighted the benefits of productive forestry for the

			<p>growing of timber. This further reinforces the misconception that there is a hierarchy of land use where some land uses are more virtuous than others. Section b) is contrary to good forestry practice which would seek to match the species to the site through the available tools of the Ecological Site Classification v4 software and local knowledge. It is beyond the scope of this document to determine the specific woodland types that should be established in a given place. Section c) It is unclear how mixed species and non clear fell silviculture improve climate resilience. In recent Storm Arwen damage, much of the timber blown in Angus was mixed species of Scots pine and larch whereas clear fell areas of Sitka spruce were preserved. Where climates are predicted to become wetter and stormier, this would mean that non clear fell systems would be less suitable for Angus, not more.</p> <p>Scots pine is not considered a mainstream alternative to faster growing commercial conifers as its growth rate is half that of spruce species and the final value and timber properties are inferior. This also means that it is not as effective at storing carbon as non native conifers and can be more susceptible to storm damage.</p>
FWS036	Ryan August		Needs to be recognition that going from moorland straight to NVC W18 may not actually be feasible and better pioneer species may be needed to be planted first. Also I have not seen an assessment that shows me that NVC W18 would be the natural environment type in these hills in a globally warmed environment; we need to forward plan for reality, not just hope for the best on climate change
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Less Spruce and invasive species
FWS039	Louise Smith		We shouldn't destroy one type of habitat to create another in order to combat climate change, its not the answer, creating the balance is key, good habitat management is very necessary in order to maintain it and all species that live in it, controlling predators would be a must as they thrive in woodland areas but can be detrimental to other rarer wildlife that don't have the upper hand.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Welcome the use of Native Scots pine and other species typical of NVC W18
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS046	Garry MacIennan		Heather moorland is a unique habitat world wide it should be preserved not reforested. Peatland should be protected

FWS047	Robert Mearns		There should be both native and comercial aspects to any planting. Also a variety of species must be considered as there are multiple tree diseases to avoid all new forests being affected by disease.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		Yes, this covers some points I raised earlier about the negative practices of clear-felling. So I fully support this, and the move away from non-native conifers to Scots Pine.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays's comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.

Climate Resilient Landscapes

Do you support Policy 3: Climate Change, Sustainability & Resilient Landscapes?



Question options

● Yes ● No ● Unsure/ no opinion ● In part

Table 12: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 17 – Climate Resilient Landscapes

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Peat & Montane Habitats	Comments regarding deep peat and other upland habitats	Deep peat is typically defined as greater than 50cm in depth. It is particularly important as carbon storage. Whilst there is some mapping available, it is unlikely to be fully reliable and it is routine that peat depth is assessed as part of any Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme application. Other peatlands can also be important, and these are mapped by NatureScot. Much of the highest ground is unsuitable for woodland or forestry, but montane woodland or scrub may be the natural vegetation.	No change proposed	FWS014, FWS044, FWS049,
Limited budgets	Respondent suggests maintaining existing forestry and woodland rather than expand due to financial constraints	Funding will be through Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme which is able to fund both existing and new woodlands and forestry.	No change proposed.	FWS045
Species Choice & Climate Change	Respondent suggested that species choice need to take account of changing climate	Agreed. This is why the strategy favours Scots pine in upland areas as it forecast to be more suitable in Angus as the climate changes.	No change proposed.	FWS036
Natural Flood Management	A number of respondents support the role of woodland in natural flood management, one seeks rivers to be dredged.	Slowing the flow of water down our catchments is key to natural flood management. This starts on the hills where woodlands and forestry can slow the flow and on lower ground where natural floodplains store water helping to safeguard settlements. Woodlands and forestry further	No change proposed.	FWS007, FWS010, FWS011, FWS013, FWS017, FWS023, FWS025, FWS046, FWS050, FWS053, FWS054,

		slowing the flow as well as protecting soils from erosion. Dredging would negate these benefits.		
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS037, FWS043, FWS055,

Table 13: Public Consultation Responses to Q17 - Climate Resilient Landscapes

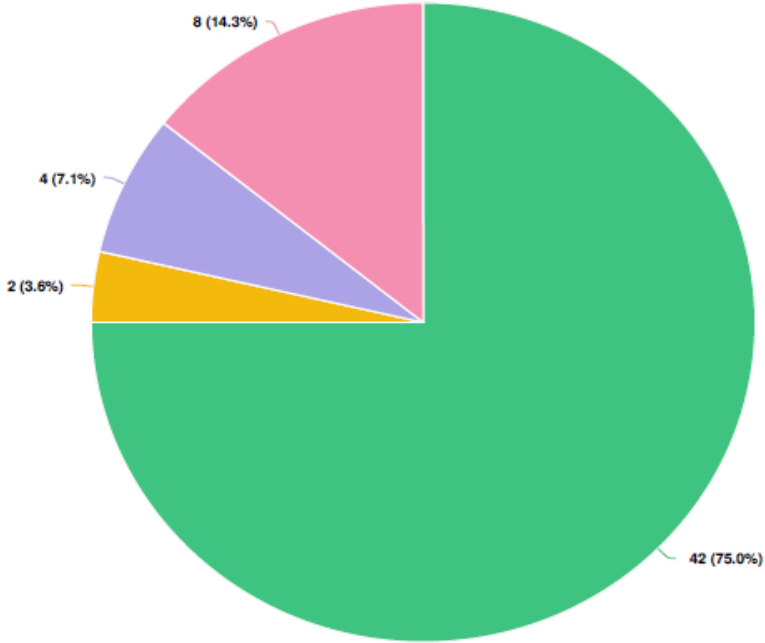
Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q17 (Do you have any comments on Policy 3? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS007	Giles Laverack		The policy should go further and actively draw attention to the role that grouse moors play in flooding. The grouse moors in the South Esk catchment contributed to the damage in Brechin during storm Babet in my opinion. Angus Council should work actively to assist community by out of parts of the upper catchments and flood plains to allow tree planting.
FWS010	John Wilson		The whole resilience of the water transfer from headlands to sea needs managed, it is not just woodlands that effect the outcome.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		This is a broad brush statement and therefore unless we understand where or what is meant by natural flood plains we cannot make a judgement to agree or disagree. Just because an area next to a rive is flat DOES NOT mean it was or is a flood plain. The topography of the land has been formed over millenia and could be glacial, previous river bed, man made flattened. It is also not clear how lowland land will be managed as these areas have been built over, sculptured and changed for the use of man, to the detriment of the natural flows of water from the rivers in spate and due to storms. Finavon is a prime example of this.
FWS013	Lynne Devine		Very important after recent experiences in Brechin etc

FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority	It may be helpful to define 'deep peat'. Scottish Forestry use 50cm, but many folk working in peatland restoration are more comfortable using 30cm. There are nuances about defining peat that you may need to tease out somewhere for clarity.
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith		Particularly important following recent floods.
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		We totally need more of this! Trees to support river banks and hill areas and to work with us. More hedging and shrubs and everything possible to reduce damage to the land and hold water better
FWS025	Julie Cave		Flood management would be beneficial in Angus in my view
FWS036	Ryan August		Agreed but policy needs to recognise the moving target. The forestry planted must be suitable for the forecast climate change.
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Its great
FWS043	Michael Hardy		Yes done properly but better to control invasive plants on the river banks that help erode.
FWS044	Gerard Watts		Please define deep peat, and who decides?
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS046	Garry Maclennan		To much rain is the problem with flooding trees are not the complete solution. I would rather see rivers dredged in main flooding areas.
FWS049	Keith Kirkhope		Why only not allowed on deep peat?
FWS050	Anna McCabe		See previous answer when trees are felled and not replaced it leads to flooding of properties, roads and fields which can gave devastating effects.
FWS053	Anne Matthews		I would like to see Angus Council proactive in supporting woodland creation on natural flood plains to slow the flow of water through catchments - especially in context of the increasing frequency of flood events in the past decade, and from my own experiences of living with flood alerts and actual flood, for example at Edzell in 2012 and 2016 and more recently at Edzell and most damagingly at Brechin in November 2023

FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		This will see the planting of a much wider range of trees, especially willow along upper water courses, and alder, downy birch and aspen on natural floodplains.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWay's comments are confined to those aspects of the Strategy that refer to, impact upon public access, including rights of way

Biodiversity

Do you support Policy 4: Biodiversity?



Question options
● Yes ● No ● Unsure/ no opinion ● In part

Table 14: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 10 – Biodiversity

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Protected species	<p>A number of respondents questioned why the golden eagle is specifically referred to but other protected species are not. FWS019 requested that the SPA be extended. One respondent FWS051 (RSPB), has requested that wader impact assessments be required more widely. FWS035 has highlighted that some of the requirements are covered by regulations.</p>	<p>The Cairngorms SPA exists to protect golden eagles. It is a mapped area to which the policy relates. FWS019 requested that the SPA be extended. It is understood that the areas designated is the area important to golden eagles. Extending the designation would not be a matter for Angus Council.</p> <p>There are a number of other protected species in Angus not all of which have designations associated with them. All bird species are protected in the UK and for example waders are widely found outwith designated sites with some such as lapwing being on a red list (species of conservation concern). Unfortunately, these areas have not been mapped. As FWS035 has highlighted the requirements are already set out in the EIA (Forestry) Regulations. This Strategy provides local context. Through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme pre consultation and due diligence approach, issues such as waders and other bird species will be recognised and if required Scottish Forestry will request breeding bird surveys etc to be completed. As part of this process, organisations such as FWS051 (RSPB) can respond to the consultation process advising Scottish</p>	<p>The text has been slightly amended for clarity and policy g) deleted as it is not required and the sentences in the supporting text relating to waders and eagles amended to the following to emphasise that an assessment would form part of an EIA.</p> <p>“Where it is likely that forestry or woodland proposals would affect the more important areas, a wader impact assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment would be appropriate to inform a decision on the balance of conservation priorities”.</p> <p>“Where proposals may affect the Golden eagle population an eagle impact assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment would be appropriate to inform a decision on the balance of conservation priorities and</p>	<p>FWS001, FWS011, FWS014, FWS023, FWS025, FWS034, FWS035, FWS036, FWS051,</p>

		<p>Forestry and the applicant that they would wish a breeding bird survey.</p> <p>Policy g) referring to eagle impact assessments outwith the SPA has been deleted as would not be required outwith the SPA.</p>	the design of any forestry or woodland”.	
Balance of Priorities	Several respondents have commented on balance between productive forestry and native woodland.	To address the twin biodiversity and climate crises, we need both. Native woodland increases biodiversity. All forms of woodland and forestry store carbon and help natural flood management. Productive forestry can provide sustainable materials for example construction. Reducing our reliance on imported timber further reduces our carbon footprint. The policy of naturalistic planting of productive forestry in unimproved upland areas is important in striking the balance of priorities.	No change proposed.	FWS018, FWS021, FWS031,
Monitoring	One respondent asked how it will be monitored	Scottish Forestry have records of applications received and are able to analyse types of application to monitor forestry and woodland areas.		GWS033
Socio-economic and political	Several respondents questioned socio-economic and short-term political objectives.	This strategy hopefully provides a balanced vision for the future. It recognises that land uses need to change to meet the needs for the future. It provides a framework within which businesses can adapt.	No change proposed.	FWS045, FWS046, FWS047,
Drainage	Respondent concerned regarding drainage schemes.	Unclear what is intended by respondent, but there are restrictions in relation to cultivation in modern forestry.	No change proposed.	FWS054

Consultation	Respondent asked that 'expert practitioners' including gamekeepers be involved.	A number of sporting interest organisations were emailed specifically making them aware of this consultation.	No change proposed.	FWS044
Deer	Respondent disappointed that no mention of deer	Deer are considered in section 5.9 and policy 9 of the strategy. It is recognised that deer are part of the native fauna.	No change proposed.	FWS052
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	Thanks for the support.	No change proposed.	FWS010, FWS015, FWS017, FWS042, FWS049, FWS050, FWS055,

Table 15: Public Consultation Responses to Q19 - Biodiversity

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q19 (Do you have any comments on Policy 4? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS001	Paul Johnson		Policy 4 G: why only golden eagle? Consider making this all raptors? Consider including other species eg red squirrel?
FWS010	John Wilson		The involvement of statutory elements can have a detriment effect on the wished for outcome, can be a huge cost for very little result. The people that live and work in the areas usually have a much better holistic approach and should be consulted and given some real powers, the positive outcomes would be surprising and cost effective.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		Eagles are important; however a balance has to be made about over protection of a species at the detriment of others. A classic example of this is the introduction of predators which as they became at the top of the foodchain with devastating results.
FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Do you have a clear idea what you expect to see in a a wader or golden eagle 'impact assessment'? It's likely that someone will ask you this.
FWS015	Colin Hunter		see previous response to question 7

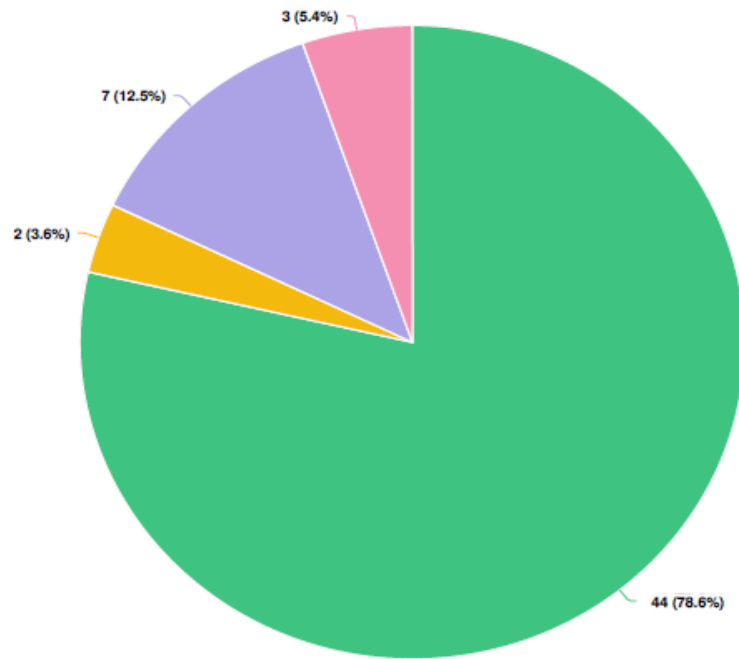
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith		Let's keep our biodiversity by saying no to projects that will impact on them.
FWS018	Kenneth Watson		Item e needs to be clear, only naturalistic planting will be permitted. The vast pine tree planting is not good for biodiversity and should not be allowed.
FWS019	Elizabeth Gammack		Could the Cairngorm SPA be extended to cover an area further into Angus without losing valuable agricultural land?
FWS021	Sheila Faichney		Biodiversity needs to take precedence over commercial activity, or we might as well continue the harmful forestry policies of the previous decades.
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		It's not just about the eagles! There are kites, bats and other important species
FWS025	Julie Cave		More information needed on the impact on animals as well as birds
FWS031	Robin Johnson		I agree with the policy for woodland. I do not support commercial forestry.
FWS033	Gavin Brebner		How will all this be monitored? Will there be an increase in staff required. The Ranger Service has been drastically cut under their current Angus Alive management.
FWS034	Ciara Gray	Perth & Kinross Council	Welcome the ask for a wader impact assessment. Criteria b) and g) might come across as duplication on a first read - perhaps worthwhile making it more explicit under g) that this refers to proposals outwith the Cairngorms SPA but which might still have an impact on Golden Eagle population.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	It is beyond the scope and role of the Council Planning Department to determine many of these policies specifically a, b and c, f which are already covered by the EIA (Forestry) Regulations through the EIA forestry development process and these policies do not acknowledge the role of land managers and Scottish Forestry who already regulate this space. Forestry proposals already need to demonstrate that there will be no significant effects on the environment through pre-existing legislation and the addition of these policies is not needed and is unwelcome and takes decision making away from local experts and foresters.
FWS036	Ryan August		The underlying principle makes sense but identification of the special interest groups of waders and eagles could be counter-productive. If we change land use there will be

			losers among the species; typically those that have benefitted from our deforestation activities. There will also be winners.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Native planting on upland heath habitats welcome.
FWS044	Gerard Watts		Please involve expert practitioners...game keepers
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS046	Garry MacLennan		I believe this is vital but do also see a failure in the this being the political agenda of planting a certain area within a time frame
FWS047	Robert Mearns		Social and economic surveys also need to be incorporated as without locally employed staff to maintain flora/fauna, biodiversity will become worse in these areas
FWS049	Keith Kirkhope		I would far rather have trees than pylons I
FWS050	Anna McCabe		It's good that you are completing wildlife impact studies to ensure that their habitat is preserved.
FWS051	David Hunt	RSPB Scotland	<p>c) Waders</p> <p>We would recommend that the sentence “Habitats for wading birds, including wetland and wet grassland areas are important for the nationally important wader numbers in parts of the Angus Glens” is amended to:</p> <p>“Habitats for wading birds, including wetlands, wet grassland and heather moorland areas support important wader numbers in parts of the Angus Glens.” We would recommend that nationally important isn’t used here because the key areas such as Glen Clova are not actually nationally designated for the wader assemblage.</p> <p>There are few inaccuracies in the species paragraph to highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curlew is now on the Red List bocc-5-a5-4pp-single-pages.pdf (bto.org). • The incorrect scientific name has been used for Redshank. <i>Persicaria maculosa</i> is the plant. <i>Tringa tetanus</i> is the bird. • Lapwing’s scientific name is missing.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oystercatcher’s scientific name is <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>. <p>We would recommend that the sentence “Where it is likely that forestry or woodland proposals would affect the more important areas, a wader impact assessment would be appropriate to inform a decision on the balance of conservation priorities.” is amended to:</p> <p>“Where it is likely that forestry or woodland proposals would affect the more important areas (such as the farmland and uplands of the Glens), a wader impact assessment based on recent breeding bird survey data and early liaison with organisations such as RSPB Scotland would be appropriate to inform a decision on the balance of conservation priorities.”</p>
FWS052	Deirdre Stewart		I support the intentions of the policy, but i am disappointed that this does not consider deer in any way. The woodland creation scheme as it exists covers all these policy measures adequately, both within and outwith the CNPA area and normal practices are delivering these. What is the definition of ‘non-woodland biodiversity’? And why no mention of deer within your biodiversity strategy?
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		Land drainage schemes need to be carefully managed to ensure that natural wetland areas are allowed to spread and evolve, with a full array of species from bog plants to waders, native fish and amphibians.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays’s comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.

Montane Woodland

Do you support Policy 5: Montane Woodland?



Question options

- Yes
- No
- Unsure/ no opinion
- In part

Table 16: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 21 – Montane Woodland

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Treeline definition	One respondent suggested we provide a definition of tree line.	Accepted that treeline for commercial timber growing is lower than montane woodland and montane scrub which progressively extend to higher elevations.	A definition of treeline will be added to the glossary.	FWS014,
Balance of Priorities	Several respondents have commented on balance between productive forestry and native woodland.	To address the twin biodiversity and climate crises, we need both. Native woodland increases biodiversity. All forms of woodland and forestry store carbon and help natural flood management. Productive forestry can provide sustainable materials for example construction. Reducing our reliance on imported timber further reduces our carbon footprint. The policy of naturalistic planting of productive forestry in unimproved upland areas is important in striking the balance of priorities.	No change proposed.	FWS031, FWS037,
Technical terminology	One respondent disapproved of technical language	The concern is accepted. In drafting the strategy, we have sought that it is understandable to general members of the public, but at the same time being technically clear to those who will be implementing it. This has been a challenge and hopefully the glossary will help understanding. We will review the glossary and supplement it as necessary.	Glossary will be supplemented as necessary.	FWS011,

Muirburn	One respondent highlighted challenges in relation to muirburn practices.	Accepted that change takes time, Montane scrub is not incompatible with sporting use and it is hoped that muirburn practices can be changed to accommodate this. Partnership working, funding and working with land managers can hopefully help.	No change proposed	FWS054
Test Area	One respondent suggested a test area.	Makes sense and this will happen. Projects to reinstate montane woodland are already underway and will serve as test areas.	No change proposed	FWS047
Limited budgets	Respondent suggests maintain existing forestry and woodland rather than expand due to financial constraints	Funding will be through Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme which is able to fund both existing and new woodlands and forestry.	No change proposed.	FWS045
Appropriateness	Respondent suggests that we should have them only if appropriate rather than because we don't have them (FWS011). Another respondent suggests should be local decision rather than policy (FWS035).	We consider that reinstating montane woodland is appropriate. They increase biodiversity and contribute towards natural flood management (FWS011). The purpose of the strategy is to create a policy context within which specific proposals can be developed (FWS035).	No change proposed.	FWS011, FWS035
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS007, FWS010, FWS013, FWS023, FWS025, FWS026, FWS031, FWS042, FWS055,

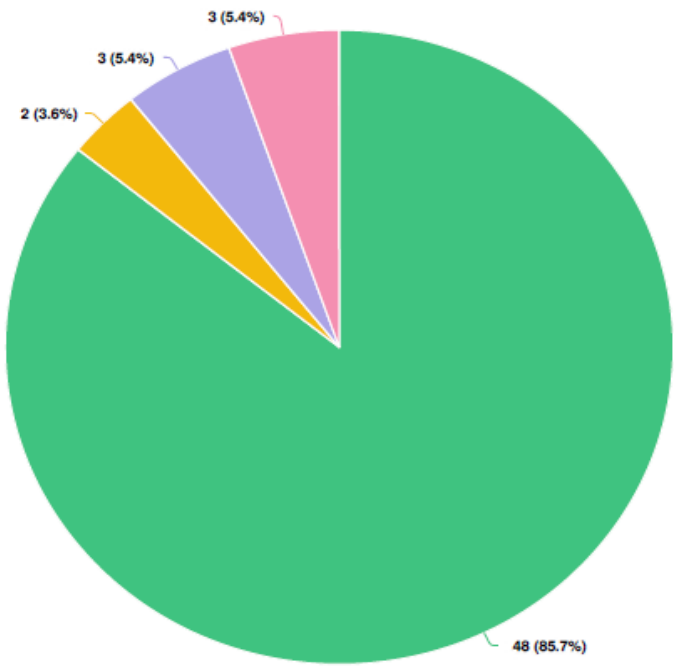
Table 17: Public Consultation Responses to Q21 – Montane Woodland

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q21 (Do you have any comments on Policy 5? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS007	Giles Laverack		This is an important habitat. We need to get it back.
FWS010	John Wilson		In the correct place.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		Here you go again, technical terms which are not clearly understood. We should have scrub areas IF APPROPRIATE to be reinstated! Not because we don't have them.
FWS013	Lynne Devine		I very much welcome this as our glens are so devoid of trees, when we know that our Scandinavian neighbours have trees much further up their hills and mountains so it can be done. So many say it can't!!!
FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority	It might be useful to define 'treeline' somewhere in the document. A forester versus an ecologist can have quite different views on where the treeline actually is.
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		Is this to hide the pylons? I'm unsure why the line needs changed, it's beautiful as is
FWS025	Julie Cave		Don't know enough about montane woodland
FWS026	Jordan Lynch	The Alba Explorers Ltd	This is a great and often overlooked part of Scotland's natural environment, especially in parts of the Southern Cairngorms within Angus. We have submitted a detailed proposal to FLS (currently in the late stages of negotiation) about exciting opportunities to restore this in Glen Prosen and would love to talk to Angus Council about it in further detail.
FWS031	Robin Johnson		I agree with the policy for woodland. I do not support commercial forestry.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	It is beyond the scope of this document to say what type of woodland is suitable in which situation. While montane woodland may be desirable in some situations, there may be other situations where it is not and that should be a locally made decision.
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Yes important to create a thriving ecosystem, which cropped intensely packed commercial forestation doesn't support

FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	The tree line can be pushed higher, trials in the Cairngorms show how high it can go and native montane planting is a must!
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS047	Robert Mearns		I agree in part but personally I think there should be small test areas first within fences as there is a variable population of mountain hares in area and they will affect the outcome.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		This policy will require the co-operation of landholders who hold vast areas of moorland. The Angus Glens are badly deforested and muirburn is a contentious issue. How will this be overcome?
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays's comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.

Riparian Woodland

Do you support Policy 6: Riparian Woodland?



Question options

- Yes
- No
- Unsure/ no opinion
- In part

Table 18: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 23 – Riparian Woodland

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Problems with Riparian Trees	One respondent believed that riparian trees cause problems.	Riparian woodland protects riverbanks and reduce the possibility of soil erosion into rivers. Siltation of rivers can destroy populations of freshwater pearl mussels and areas important for salmon spawning. It Soil is one of our most important resources and its loss is potentially a big issue.	No change proposed.	FWS011
Grey Squirrels	A respondent has asked whether grey squirrel management will be included.	The council is currently investigating this matter.	No change proposed	FWS020
Beavers	A number of respondents have highlighted the challenges of establishing riparian woodland with beavers,	Beavers are generally considered helpful in managing watercourses as their activities slow the flow of water down catchments.. There are techniques available to protect trees from beavers are required. Scottish Forestry will advise on these measures when applications for funding are being assessed.	No change proposed.	FWS003, FWS010, FWS042, FWS044, FWS045, FWS047,
Safeguarding of existing riparian woodland	One respondent asked how existing riparian woodland can be safeguarded.	Most trees are already protected by felling licence regulations administered by Scottish Forestry who also provide grant aid for their management and expansion.	No change proposed.	FWS012
Fencing	One respondent commented on need for fencing.	May be required. Likely to be grant eligible for grant aid through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme.	No change proposed.	FWS035

No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS025, FWS027, FWS041, FWS042, FWS050, FWS054, FWS055,
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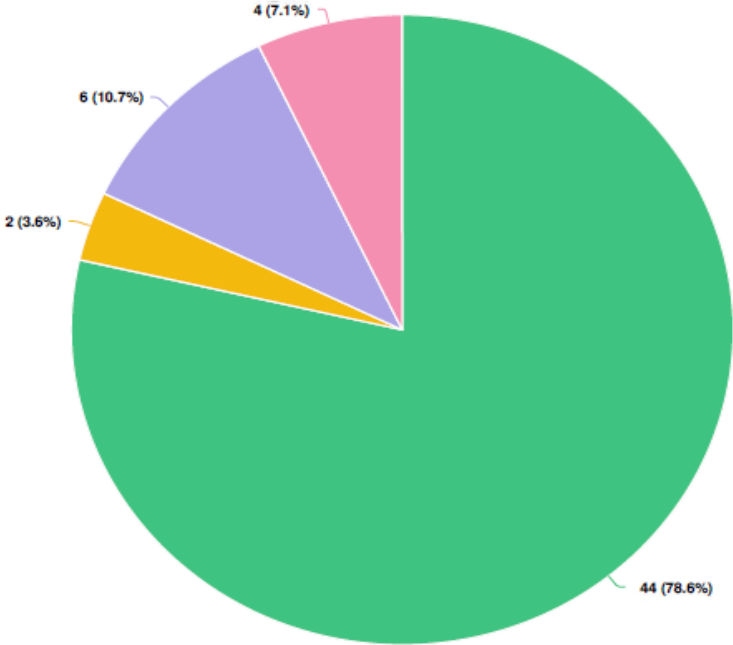
Table 19: Public Consultation Responses to Q23 – Riparian Woodland

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q23 (Do you have any comments on Policy 6? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS003	Nicholas Hamilton		The impact of Beavers does not appear to have been given sufficient attention in the Policy. The future impact of Beavers may be very significant and completely derail the aims of the Strategy in respect of riparian woodlands
FWS010	John Wilson		A good goal, but it has to be enacted properly, no point in planting/managing areas if invasive, destructive animals or species are an issue.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		You do not appear to understand the problems associated with trees along rivers. Please visit Milton of Finavon to see how trees are creating more problems. In the Lemno Burn and the South Esk, these are exacerbating the risk of flooding. You are NOT managing these areas now nor are those responsible for the riparian areas.
FWS012	Suzanne Doherty		Would be interested to find out how existing riparian woodland will be safeguarded.
FWS020	Hazel Forrest	Scottish Wildlife Trust	Will grey squirrels be included as an invasive non-native species to be managed to safeguard riparian woodland? Grey squirrel densities are already high in some parts of Angus and populations will continue to expand and increase in density in the absence of strategic grey squirrel control.
FWS025	Julie Cave		In principle I support this proposal but more specific place related information is required
FWS027	Wilma Taylor		Sooner the better

FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	Some of these proposals may require enhanced funding or extra funding due to the pressure from flood damage and this may include small fenced enclosures, double fences at either side of the river to avoid the use of water gates.
FWS041	Fiona Work		Good measure for flood management
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Particularly welcome as many farmers remove the riverside trees to increase the water flow! Beaver will one day come into more of our rivers in Angus, landowners need to know how this may affect them, and what to expect. Illegal killing if beaver happens across Scotland by landowners hating a change to their land. They need to know what can be fine, in what circumstances and why. Also the penalties for illegal killings.
FWS044	Gerard Watts		Beaver damage will impact heavily on this
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further. Plus the introduction of beavers does nothing to help maintain what's there.
FWS047	Robert Mearns		The presence of beavers in Angus will affect tree growth, they will fell any deciduous new trees and shrubs before they get chance to grow. They will also burrow into river banks creating weakness that will be susceptible to flood damage and washing out.
FWS050	Anna McCabe		The banks of the rivers in Angus and in Aberdeenshire have all been severely eroded due to recent flooding as there was little or no vegetation growing on the riverbanks to prevent the soil being washed away this should prevent this from happening thus preventing further flooding.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		Too many of the burns running from the moors down onto agricultural land have become little more than straightened ditches. There needs to be incentives to encourage farmers to let the burns meander, to have shaded banks (tree planting) to encourage fish spawning, and even to allow beavers to work their magic in areas where any increase in wetland does not cause flooding of prime agricultural land.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays's comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.

Landscape, Wild Land and Wildness

Do you support Policy 7: Landscape, Wild Land & Wildness?



Question options
● Yes ● No ● Unsure/ no opinion ● In part

Table 20: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 25 – Landscape, Wild Land and Wildness

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Balance of Priorities	Several respondents have commented on balance between productive forestry and native woodland.	To address the twin biodiversity and climate crises, we need both. Native woodland increases biodiversity. All forms of woodland and forestry store carbon and help natural flood management. Productive forestry can provide sustainable materials for example construction. Reducing our reliance on imported timber further reduces our carbon footprint. The policy of naturalistic planting of productive forestry in unimproved upland areas is important in striking the balance of priorities.	No change proposed.	FWS031, FWS037
Wild Land Assessment & assessment of Impact upon Special Qualities.	Respondents commented on when a WLA is required and suggested a link.	Partly agreed. The Strategy highlights when WLA assessment is required and is consistent with NatureScot guidance. A link to the NatureScot WLA guidance and form has been added (FWS014). The description of Special Qualities is referred to in the strategy text, is included as appendix 1 (FWS036) and provides local context in relation to consideration of the need for and content of an environmental impact assessment (FWS035).	A link already exists in the text, but we have changed the colour of all hyperlinks to make them more obvious..	FWS014, FWS035, FWS036, FWS037, FWS052,
Consultation	Respondent asked that 'expert practitioners'	A number of sporting interest organisations were emailed specifically making them aware of this consultation.	No change proposed.	FWS044,

	including gamekeepers be involved.			
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS009, FWS010, FWS011, FWS017, FWS018, FWS019, FWS042, FWS046, FWS050, FWS054, FWS055,

Table 21: Public Consultation Responses to Q25 - Landscape, Wild Land and Wildness

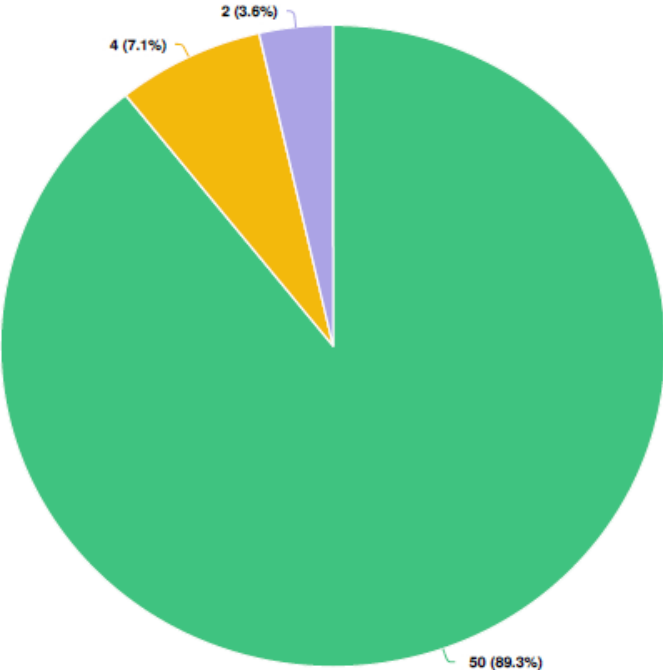
Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q25 (Do you have any comments on Policy 7? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS009	Angela Taylor		I sincerely hope that the special landscape qualities we have in Angus are protected. Our landscape is our special asset and must be protected.
FWS010	John Wilson		It depends on costs and outcome. A lot can be done without over managed and expensive interference from government bodies.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		What about other infrastructure such as Pylons. Burying powerlines must be part of this proposal
FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority	It might be useful to provide a link to NatureScot guidance on how to do a Wild Land Assessment.
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith		Stop SSEN and their pylons destroying our landscapes.
FWS018	Kenneth Watson		No huge pylons to be allowed to spoil the natural beauty of the Angus countryside
FWS019	Elizabeth Gammack		This can be done by preventing loss of land to construction required to install the proposed pylons

FWS031	Robin Johnson		I support this policy for woodland. I do not support commercial forestry.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	It is beyond the scope of Angus Council and this document to determine if a Wild Land Assessment is required. Already forestry proposals must demonstrate compliance with UK Forestry Standard which includes landscape design principles and also proposals are required to demonstrate that there is no significant effect on the environment which includes landscape impacts and it is for Scottish Forestry to determine the circumstances in which a Wild Land Assessment or Landscape Impact Assessment is required.
FWS036	Ryan August		I don't know what the definition of 'landscape special qualities' are so cannot support in full
FWS037	Judith Robertson		How will this be implimented? Forestry and woodland proposal will be supported where they demonstrate that they do not erode landscape special qualities and comply with landscape and forestry guidelines. I fear the balance will be towards commercial forrestry "forestry guidelines_who decides the guidelines. This work isnt safety related and people dont see the improvements immediately, therefore it will be easy to loose morivation and revert to the mess we have now.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Natural regeneration on wild land should be encouraged.
FWS044	Gerard Watts		Again, involve experts....game keepers
FWS046	Garry MacIennan		Must be strict to keep the existing biodiversity intact
FWS050	Anna McCabe		These areas are also important to the bio diversity of the countryside and should also be carefully managed.
FWS052	Deirdre Stewart		Woodland creation proposals to Scottish Forestry deals with this adequately.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		The biggest erosion of landscape special qualities in Angus will come from the construction of the proposed 400kV overhead line and giant pylons straight down Strathmore to Tealing. The pylons will dwarf any woodland, will require removal of existing forest and woodland for permanent access roads and OHL corridors, and destroy the landscape both looking towards the Angus Glens and from the Glens towards the coast.

FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays's comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.

Historic Environment

Do you support Policy 8: Historic Environment?



Question options
● Yes ● Unsure/ no opinion ● In part

Table 22: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 27 – Historic Environment

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Levels of protection	Respondents commented on the extent to which non-statutory sites are protected from woodland and forestry expansion.	This very much depends on the type and quality of sites. Some information only becomes apparent during consideration of proposed sites. The term not generally supported provides guidance on the policy intend, but it is however the application of this will consider the individual merit of each site (FWS011). Up-standing sites which could include ruins, dykes, enclosures and field patterns are more likely to be considered appropriate for protection from woodland and forestry expansion (FWS013).	No change proposed.	FWS011, FWS013
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS010, FWS050, FWS055,

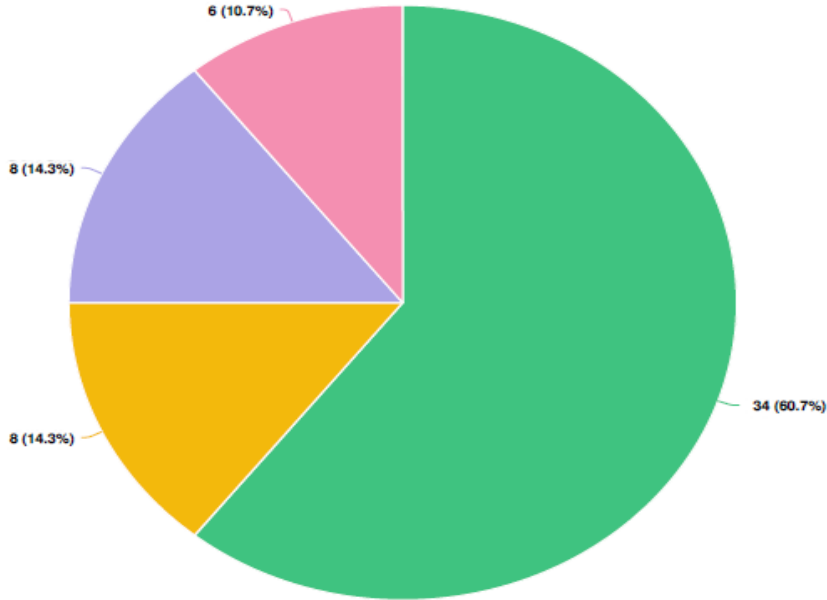
Table 23: Public Consultation Responses to Q27 – Historic Environment

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q27 (Do you have any comments on Policy 8? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS010	John Wilson		Hugely important. The Angus/sScotland rural economy is based on the natural and historic landscape. Industrial projects are a nett destruction of rural communities and environment goals, especially where there is alternative methods or projects. Sometimes the cheapest financial cost is the most expensive.

FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		This must be in context of course. I am not keen on blanket policy statements. Whilst the words "and not generally supported" this should be clearer statement that all will be judged on their merits.
FWS013	Lynne Devine		We have so many bits and pieces of historic sites, some of which are really not that important. Emphasis should be on the designated ones.
FWS050	Anna McCabe		Given the proposed plans to mutilate our countryside, felling trees, woodlands etc I would fully support any proposals to stop further destruction of our forests and countryside the more it is protected the less likelihood there will be of it being unnecessarily destroyed.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays's comments are confined to those aspects of the draft Strategy that relate to, or impact upon, public access, including rights of way.

Deer Management & Fencing

Do you support Policy 9: Deer Management & Fencing?



Question options
Yes No Unsure/ no opinion In part

Table 24: Themed Grouping of Responses to Policy 9 – Deer Management & Fencing

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Venison	Respondents suggest marketing of venison	Beyond the scope of the Strategy.	No change proposed	FWS026, FWS036
Culling Versus Fencing	Respondent suggested fencing rather than culling of deer populations.	The strategy very much adopts a whole landscape approach. Having woodlands expanding and regenerating only when deer fenced is the status quo and does neither address the climate or biodiversity crises.	No change proposed.	FWS045
Deer Culling	Respondents have various opinions on culling process	It is noted that the recent Scottish Government public consultation on deer considered such matters as season periods and licencing. This Strategy does not include opinion on any of those matters.	No change proposed.	FWS033, FWS039, FWS044, FWS045,
Socio-economic and political	Several respondents questioned socio-economic objectives and impacts upon local traditions.	This strategy hopefully provides a balanced vision for the future. It recognises that land uses need to change to meet the needs for the future. It provides a framework within which businesses can adapt.	No change proposed.	FWS047
Re-introduction of Predators and Natural Balance	Suggestion that the re-introduction of predators such as lynx could assist controlling deer populations. One respondent suggested	The absence of natural predators is in part why deer populations are high. The introduction of predators could assist controlling populations but is considered a national consideration. The eradication of predators has in part led to population	No change proposed	FWS007, FWS025, FWS031, FWS036

	that nature should find its own balance and another	imbalance which has led to woodland and vegetation being impacted and native woodland being unable to regenerate naturally due to grazing pressure.		
Manage all Wildlife	Respondent suggests that all wildlife should be managed.	This is a forestry and woodland strategy and deer are specifically mentioned as a result of their widespread impact on the regeneration of woodlands in Angus.	No change proposed.	FWS011
Public Access	Respondent suggested modified wording in relation to deer fence crossing.	The worded has been updated taking into account the comments received.	Text updated.	FWS054
Deer Population Data & Target	Opinion that the data in relation to deer populations is incorrect (FWS052). Another respondent asked what the population target is (FWS042). NatureScot has indicated that the suggested population control level may be insufficient to enable vegetation recovery.	The data used is from NatureScot. It is however acknowledged that the data has been gathered in different years and that it does not show overall population densities at a point in time. Never the less it is considered that the population is too high to allow natural regeneration of woodlands to take place. It is also noted that NatureScot have indicated that densities of lower than the suggested 5 deer per square kilometre would be required to enable vegetation recovery. This is consistent with Scottish Forestry guidance which has been updated to recommend 2-5 deer per kilometre square.	The text has been amended to include broader statements regarding high deer numbers and omit references to deer numbers as this may be open to interpretation. The recommended deer density has also been reduced to 2-5 deer per square kilometre. The revised two sentences are as follows: "NatureScot Deer Count Density (updated 2023) shows that some of the upper and southern parts of	FWS042, FWS052

			the Angus Glens have high Red deer numbers. It is generally considered that a Red deer population of around 2-5 animals per km2 would enable native woodland to regenerate naturally”.	
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS003, FWS010, FWS028, FWS037, FWS040,

Table 25: Public Consultation Responses to Q29 - Deer Management & Fencing

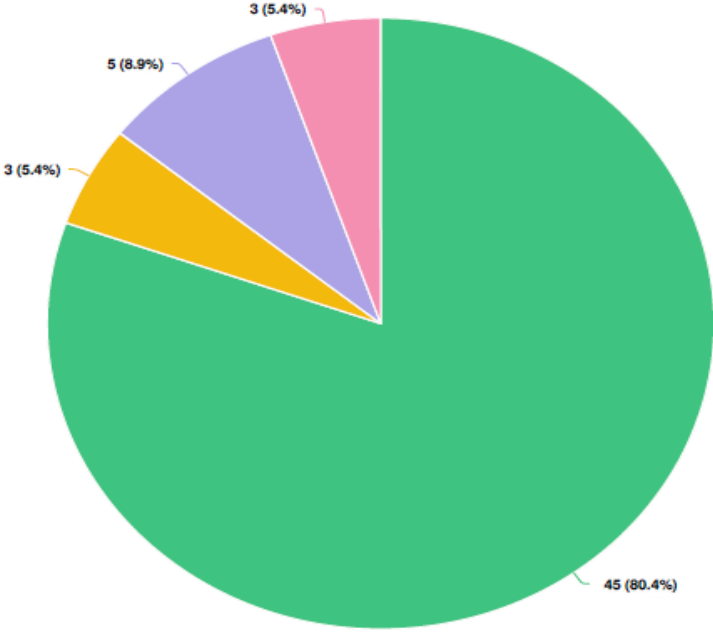
Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q29 (Do you have any comments on Policy 9? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS003	Nicholas Hamilton		The reduction in deer population to the levels needed to achieve the aim of Policy 9 is unachievable without a radical change to the management of estate land in Scotland
FWS007	Giles Laverack		Angus Council should actively support reintroduction of Lynx to Scotland as way to control roe deer.
FWS010	John Wilson		Yes, it is vital if the aims of the policy are to succeed. Other animals also need controlled, rabbits, hares beavers etc.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		We have to manage all wildlife, not just deer. We cannot exclude bird in this as they form very much part of the eco system.

FWS025	Julie Cave		I do not support culling animals to save trees. Deer and trees have survived together for centuries coexistence is possible
FWS026	Jordan Lynch	The Alba Explorers Ltd	We should be engaging more with the massive potential supply of venison on our doorstep. This is a great opportunity for the people of Angus to be eating more of the healthiest red meat available.
FWS028	Sean Smith		Fully support
FWS031	Robin Johnson		Let nature find its own balance.
FWS033	Gavin Brebner		How is this to be done? Through increased stalking? Or culling? Could this create more possibility of restricted access and conflict?
FWS036	Ryan August		Supported but more imaginative means are required than culling them and burying most of the result in a hole. Predator introduction . Improved marketing of products. Needs to be active management of what are effectively national herds (as they are very mobile), eg target numbers of which species, defined monitoring responsibilities etc
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Deer should be culled there are too many
FWS039	Louise Smith		Deer have been eradicated completely in some parts of Scotland to protect trees....there are now parts of Scotland that won't see red deer again unless introduced....Balance again
FWS040	Lesley Anderson	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Deer management is crucial and more should be done to reduce the numbers and until that is done then reforestation is futile
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Where are your targets for deer numbers per ha?
FWS044	Gerard Watts		As long as expert and experienced deer management professionals are involved
FWS045	D Inglis		Deer are an iconic species in Scotland they should not be treated like vermin. Fencing should be used to protect vulnerable areas.
FWS046	Garry MacLennan		I think fencing is important and do not agree with shooting female deer late in the spring or early in the autumn

FWS047	Robert Mearns		<p>No social and economic study has been undertaken to the benefits that deer bring to the area ie employment, both direct and indirect employment. Reducing deer to econically unviable numbers, employment in rural areas will be affected, jobs will be lost, rural workers will loose there homes, local services will be lost. Rural depopulation will happen.</p> <p>Also reducing red deer (subspecies cervus elaphus scotias) will also lessen there gene pool.</p> <p>Local traditions and local heritage will also be lost ie traditional working highland ponies, which is a rare breed.</p>
FWS050	Anna McCabe		<p>I understand that deer can destroy young woodlands but am unsure about culling deer but do understand the damage they cause and the expense of replacing the damaged trees. Could deer fences not be comstructed initially to prevent the deer eating the trees?</p>
FWS052	Deirdre Stewart		<p>The details within section 5.9 are fundamentally incorrect. I have been secretary and project manager for the South Grampian Deer Management Group since 2012, and not once has any representative from Angus Council been in touch about this strategy or proposals. Your quoting of deer densities is completely incorrect and I am staggered that Angus Council can be seen to quote data which is so wrong, divisive, misleading and unrepresentative of deer management in Angus. To base your consultation on detail which is so unrealistic and incorrect is potentially damaging to those involved in this industry and does nothing to engage their confidence in your proposals. Please get your facts right before publishing details like this. Our Deer Management Group has been established for many years. The fact that you don't know how to even get the details to base your proposals on, nor contact the Group is shameful, and embarrassing. It only demonstrates the utter disconnect that Angus Council have with the deer management sector in the Angus Glens. Don't expect anyone in the sector to agree with your proposals when they are based on utterly nonsensical data, and the council having never made any attempt to contact nor respect for their part in your vision.</p>
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	<p>ScoWays suggests wording along the following lines be added to this section of the draft Strategy:</p> <p>“Where deer fencing proves necessary and unavoidable, it should be located in such a manner that it does not obstruct, encroach upon, otherwise interfere with or deter the use of core paths, rights of way, promoted routes, routes to or between landscape features and other routes that are clearly defined on the ground.”</p>

Forests, Woodland and People

Do you support Policy 10: Forests, Woodland & People?



Question options
● Yes ● No ● Unsure/ no opinion ● In part

Table 26: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 31 – Forests, Woodland and People

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Scottish Outdoor Access Code	Respondents concerned about appropriate behaviour of visitors and disturbance to wildlife.	There is a general right of access to land in Scotland. Therefore whilst access is available most areas, our priority in facilitating access with gates, paths, waymarking etc is provision close to where people live (FWS001). This includes all abilities access where possible (FWS011). Other woodlands will remain within access rights (FWS036). The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides guidance on responsible access (FWS016) and on appropriate land management in the context of public access FWS047).	No change proposed	FWS01, FWS011, FWS016, FWS036, FWS047
Funding	Respondent asks how it will be funded	Access provision can be funded through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme – Woodland in and Around Towns.	No change proposed	FWS012, FWS045
Storm damage	Respondent concerned that storm damage has restricted access.	Unfortunately, this has been the case and will be cleared in due course.	No change proposed	FWS036
Hutting	Respondent suggested the council should consider hutting at Monikie and Crombie.	Beyond the scope of this strategy.	No change proposed.	FWS040
Access Rights	Respondent provides opinion on how to protect access rights where deer fencing is proposed.	Broadly accepted. The policy is supported by the preceding text. The detailed implementation will depend upon operational decisions by Scottish Forestry in discussion with consultees.	Supporting text updated to include further examples of access requirements.	FWS057

No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS010, FWS017, FWS023, FWS028, FWS042, FWS050, FWS052, FWS055,
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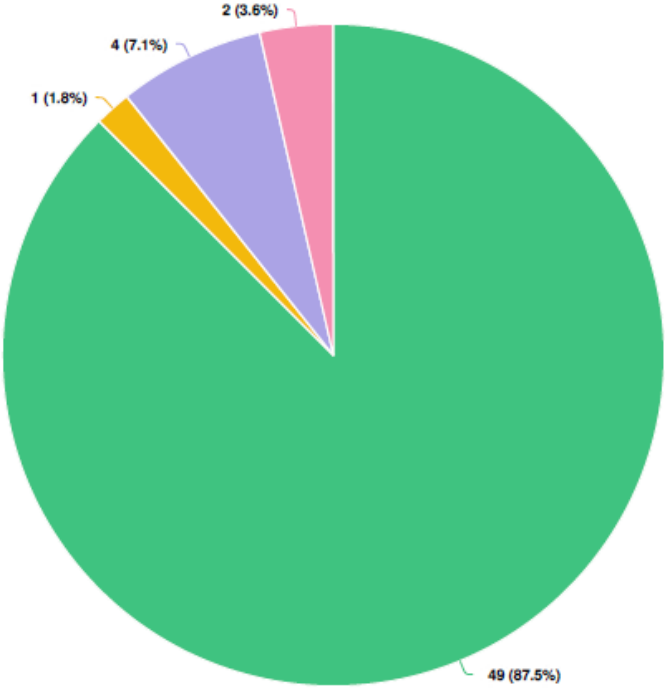
Table 27: Public Consultation Responses to Q31 - Forests, Woodland and People

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q31 (Do you have any comments on Policy 10? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS001	Paul Johnson		Policy 10 A: why limit to just close to where people live? People should have reasonable access to all woodlands.
FWS010	John Wilson		Absolutely correct, although there should be a contract between usage of the area by people and respect for it, it is sadly lacking at the moment.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		Great, ease of access too for our residents who are disabled.
FWS012	Suzanne Doherty		How will landowners be supported to make woodland accessible?
FWS016	Gus Guthrie		Disturbance of nesting birds by too much human activities is a possibility
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith		Please ensure that the views from these areas are protected from unnecessary infrastructure that will ruin the environment.
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		In general it would be lovely to welcome folk to the countryside however people don't seem to understand or respect nature and I worry about the risk of fire and litter
FWS028	Sean Smith		This is the most important thing. A walk in the woods is so beneficial to our mental health and in this hectic pace of modern life, it's one of the best things living in Angus to be close to nice walks. More woods means more walks.

FWS036	Ryan August		Needs to be recognition of the large amount of damaged woodland following storms and a strategy for recovery of this land to functional woodland amenity status
FWS038	Jillian Hillock		The regeneration and protection of the woodland should take priority over access for people. Let people explore the woodland in its natural state not an accessible human version of it with neat paths and access etc.
FWS040	Lesley Anderson	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Angus council should explore hutting community projects to allow self management of suitable land areas - (Crombie + Monikie) - as stated woodland can absorb high levels of recreational use...
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Excellent! Access to woodland has so many proven benefits for peoples health, shading, increased house prices, it's all good!
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS047	Robert Mearns		Fences are also needed to keep walkers apart from livestock.
FWS050	Anna McCabe		It's good to encourage people to use woods near where they live.
FWS052	Deirdre Stewart		All covered by Scottish Forestry approvals
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays fully supports Section 5.10 Forests, Woodland and People and its associated policies. In particular, it welcomes its recognition of the national issue of forestry fencing potentially obstructing access routes, its consequential statement to address the issue that public access should not be unduly restricted by forestry fencing, and its specific reference to core paths, rights of way, promoted routes and other paths or routes to and between landscape features remaining unobstructed.
FWS057	Davie Black	Mountaineering Scotland	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft Forestry and Woodlands Strategy. Mountaineering Scotland supports Policy 10 that requires new woodland fencing to include fence crossing facilities as necessary. What is necessary may be a debatable point and it is encouraging to see the context statement that outlines situations where the Policy should apply to "other potential off-path routes

			<p>for which there may be demand remain unobstructed. These routes may include landscape features such as hills, ridges, rivers or archaeological sites and routes between such features.”</p> <p>Our recommendation is that gates should be provided where the fence crosses paths or tracks, or informal routes used to walk or cycle to summits and tops. For other informal routes crossing points need to be provided at places where people are likely to need to cross the fence, such as the hills and ridges mentioned – we would also include points where the fence makes a significant change in direction. Away from paths or tracks, stiles, with adjacent dog flap, would be adequate for crossing, especially where the terrain is rough or remote.</p> <p>I hope these comments are helpful in your consideration of the finalised Strategy.</p>
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Do you support Proposal 2: Forests, Woodland & People?



Question options
● Yes ● No ● unsure ● In part/ no opinion

Table 28: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 33 – Forests, Woodland & People

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Storm damage	Respondent concerned regarding restrictions to access due to storm damage.	Concern noted. This policy relates to council woodlands and the council has been clearing storm damage.	No change proposed	FWS007
Prime land	Respondent concerned regarding loss of prime land	This proposal relates specifically to council land and managed woodland	No change proposed	FWS009
Scottish Outdoor Access Code	Respondents concerned about appropriate behaviour of visitors and disturbance to wildlife.	The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides guidance on responsible access which includes disturbance to wildlife as well as litter, anti-social behaviour etc.	No change proposed.	FWS049, FWS047,
Disabled Parking	Respondent emphasises importance of parking for disabled people.	Agreed. Many council woodlands are in and around towns and villages where parking is commonly possible.	No change proposed.	FWS011,
Cost	Respondent concerned about costs	Works can be grant aided from Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme – Woodland in and Around Towns.	No change proposed.	FWS045
Hutting	Respondent suggests that Local Development Plan should make provision for hutting	This is not a matter for this strategy to consider. The respondent is respectfully asked to make representation to the next LDP at the appropriate point in its preparation process; however, hutting in general will be looked at within the	No change proposed.	FWS040

		preparation of the evidence report for the next LDP.		
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS010, FWS042, FWS053, FWS054,

Table 29: Public Consultation Responses to Q7 - Forests, Woodland & People

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q33 (Do you have any comments on Proposal 2? If you do not support it or only partly support it please explain why.)
FWS007	Giles Laverack		Angus Council should engage now with landowners to ensure that existing access is not lost. Storms from Arwen onwards and subsequent clear felling have resulted in many well used routes being lost for example in Montreathmont. Routes should be assessed and landowners encouraged to re-open closed routes.
FWS009	Angela Taylor		As long as prime agricultural land is not used to create such woodland
FWS010	John Wilson		Respect needs to be paramount.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		We must have proper parking for those who cannot access these by other means. Look at the Lake District on how to do this extremely well. We must not get caught up in a Net Zero anti car campaign.
FWS039	Louise Smith		People and nature don't mix well
FWS040	Lesley Anderson	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Land allocation as part of the local development plan should include the prospect of hutting communities allowing individuals to maintain land areas.
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	All good

FWS044	Gerard Watts		You assume that these areas are for recreational use....what about those working in them trying to make a living?
FWS045	D Inglis		Maintain what we already have. Current finance and resources are sufficient for maintain what is already there so why stretch them further.
FWS047	Robert Mearns		Greater access in woodlands will have to be carefully managed , litter issues, antisocial behaviour etc.
FWS053	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		I totally agree with the creation of accessible woodland as part of land allocation within the Local Development Plan.
FWS054	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	ScotWays supports Proposal 2

Any Other Comments

Table 30: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 34 – Any Other Comments

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Engagement & Consultation	Respondents commented on engagement and consultation with land managers.	The consultation has been on Engage Angus widely publicised. In addition, a number of organisations representing landowners, farming, countryside sports and deer management were contacted direct to advise them of the consultation. The implementation of some of the strategy may involve partnership working which would include land managers.	No change proposed	FWS052, FWS054
Public Access	A detailed response from a respondent (Angus Access Forum) on a	The strategy relates to woodland and forestry and public access is considered in section 5.9 and 5.10. The text has been reviewed and amended as necessary with	Text reviewed and amended. Last paragraph of supporting text is as follows:	FWS056

	number of matters relating to public access.	the intention to minimise access restrictions due to deer fencing. However detailed consideration of specific proposals is best dealt with through the pre-consultation phase of grant applications. The updating of OS mapping is not a matter for this strategy and is something the respondent may wish to discuss with Scottish Forestry direct. In terms of buffers adjacent to paths, it very much depends upon forest design and paths through forests can be attractive. Again, engagement at pre-application design stage may be helpful, but a general rule is not supported.	<p>“Across Angus, it is important that public access is not unduly restricted by forestry fencing or inappropriate forest design. This particularly applies to core path, public rights of way and other promoted routes. But it equally applies to other paths, and to potential off-path routes for which there may be demand for unobstructed access, particularly in upland areas. These routes may include landscape features such as hills, ridges, rivers or archaeological sites, and routes to and between such features”.</p> <p>And policy 10(b) as follows:</p> <p>“b) Forestry and woodland proposals should include an assessment of impacts upon access and include fence crossing facilities and paths or accessible corridors as necessary”.</p>	
Funding	A number of respondents commented on the cost of funding the implementation of the	Woodland and forestry management and expansion together with public access provision can be grant aided through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme. In	No change proposed.	FWS003, FWS007,

	strategy in the current financial climate.	addition, partnership working and projects may be able to further assist with funding.		
Grey Squirrels	A respondent has asked whether grey squirrel management will be included.	The council is currently investigating this matter.	No change proposed	FWS020
Socio-economic and local traditions	Several respondents questioned socio-economic objectives and impacts upon local traditions.	This strategy hopefully provides a balanced vision for the future. It recognises that land uses need to change to meet the needs for the future whilst protecting wildlife and important habitats. It provides a framework within which businesses can adapt.	No change proposed.	FWS043, FWS044, FWS047,
CNPA Forestry & Woodland Strategy	Respondent requested that strategy refer to Cairngorms National Park.	Accepted. Reference to the Cairngorms strategy has been added to the introduction.	Text added to introduction as follows: "The Strategy applies to the part of Angus for which Angus Council is planning authority. Therefore the part of Angus within the Cairngorms National Park is covered by the Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy. This is the first statutory Forestry & Woodland Strategy for Angus, but it replaces the non-statutory Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework (2011). It is intended that the Angus Forestry & Woodland	FWS014

			Strategy provides the Council's policy in relation to forestry and woodlands for the period 2024–2034 and how Angus can contribute towards delivery of Scotland's Forestry Strategy".	
Well-being	Respondent would like more on well-being value to people of woodland and forests	This already referred to section 5.10	No change proposed.	FWS001
Plain English	Respondents disapproved of technical language and one specifically referred to the executive summary.	The concern is accepted. In drafting the strategy, we have sought that it is understandable to general members of the public, but at the same time being technically clear to those who will be implementing it. This has been a challenge and hopefully the glossary will help understanding. We have reviewed the glossary and supplemented. The Executive Summary has been reviewed and has less technical language than the main text.	Glossary has been supplemented with terminology used within the strategy.	FWS011, FWS036,
Targets	Respondent seeks timescales and targets	The Strategy does not contain targets but seeks to help deliver the targets of the Scottish Forestry Strategy.	No change proposed	FWS042
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS008, FWS009, FWS010, FWS011, FWS012, FWS013, FWS020, FWS021, FWS023, FWS025, FWS031, FWS034, FWS057, FWS037,

				FWS039, FWS040, FWS041, FWS050, FWS053, FWS055,
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Table 31: Public Consultation Responses to Q34 – Any Other Comments

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q34 (Do you have any other comments on the draft Strategy?)
FWS001	Paul Johnson		More should be visible in this strategy on the well-being people experience in the very widest forms this may take - from general health, exercise, fresh air, improved mental well-being and connecting with nature's beauty.
FWS003	Nicholas Hamilton		I am concerned that the parlous state of Scotland's finances and in particular the financial pressures on Angus Council will result in the laudable policies of the Strategy being weakly pursued and implemented in a patchy manner resulting in a failure to achieve the stated aims
FWS007	Giles Laverack		It needs a lot more detail on the mechanisms to implement it as without applying some of the council's resources in an active way the policies will not be realised.
FWS008	Amanda Martin		I am pleased Angus Council is taking their responsibilities for the beauty, environment and future proofing the community access and protection of our energy supplies.
FWS009	Angela Taylor		Yes, Am glad to see that this is considered important in Angus and that such developments will; be properly considered.
FWS010	John Wilson		It is interesting. I would think that the wider environment needs to be considered, it is not a stand alone problem. Industrial situations should be avoided outwith historic areas of industrial landscape, these are important too.
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		I would like to see less jargon and more plain English. I am concerned that the proposals around flooding are somewhat siloed in the thinking. Natural flooding is always going to happen, however the amount of man made problems and neglect are

			more than a small part of the current problems. The South River Esk and Lemno are huge problems for Finavon and Brechin. We have to be open and frank that people and property come before recreational fishing and the lack of river management.
FWS012	Suzanne Doherty		Great to see a strategy being put in place.
FWS013	Lynne Devine		I think if we manage all this, we'll be doing well.
FWS014	Fiona Holmes	Cairngorms National Park Authority	It would be useful to mention that Cairngorms National Park also has it's own Forest Strategy which covers the area of Angus within the National Park boundary and is complimentary to this Angus Forestry and Woodland Strategy. Currently the document and maps exclude areas within the Park but don't make any reference to there being a neighbouring forest strategy already in place.
FWS020	Hazel Forrest	Scottish Wildlife Trust	Generally very impressed with the strategy and how positive its proposals are for biodiversity and connectivity. Would like to see recognition of grey squirrel as a woodland INNS with potential to replace native species and damage woodland health.
FWS021	Sheila Faichney		I'm pleased to see the work and consultation being done on this, and hope that biodiversity and sustainability will be prioritised.
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		Looks good
FWS025	Julie Cave		More information needs to be provided in order for decisions to be made
FWS031	Robin Johnson		I do not support proposals for commercial forestry, where woodland is used as a leisure resource or other interference by humans, such as 'managing' woodland. True biodiversity will only be achieved by humans leaving these natural landscapes alone. I do not support using plastic supports and rabbit protectors for newly-planted trees.
FWS034	Ciara Gray	Perth & Kinross Council	The Draft Strategy is well written, informative, and easy to follow. It reflects well the national vision, policy drivers and key objectives for forestry, woodland, and trees in an Angus context, as well as the UK Forestry Standard themes. We support the specification of particular surveys that will be required under Policy 4: Biodiversity, which will be helpful to applicants and decision-makers alike.

			The accompanying online map is a useful reference tool and will be helpful to us in considering what happens at local authority boundaries (in terms of consistency) when we are refreshing our Forestry and Woodland Strategy in the near future.
FWS035	Neil White	Scottish Woodlands Limited	A lot of the framework and standard for forestry management is already contained within the UK Forestry Standard and it is unnecessary to rewrite or overwrite this. However where there are specific interests in the Angus Council area then it is right that the council produces guidance on management and creation of new woodlands. We would like to see a greater emphasis and acknowledgement on the contribution that productive forestry has had and is having on the economy in Angus e.g. an estate in the Angus Glens provides year round employment for many people directly from productive forestry including harvesting, tree planting, maintenance and management activities.
FWS036	Ryan August		Someone needs a lesson on plain English before they write the 'Non-technical' summary
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Overall its good, if it can be implemented with the objective of managing the impact of climate change in Scotland. Due to to the timeframe of this proposal it will have to be communicated to the people of Angus. Target objectives Versus milestones achieved should be clearly visible. The grants and budget need to be available for the benefit tax paying community, not rich landowners.
FWS039	Louise Smith		I agree with more woodland but it needs to be done in balance, taking farming and wildlife management all into account, planting trees to tick boxes is not the answer, no one has taken the lead on this controversial matter, they need to realise the bigger picture.
FWS040	Lesley Anderson	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	great document
FWS041	Fiona Work		Good to see flood mitigation in the proposal
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Targets Timescales Protect ancient trees
FWS043	Michael Hardy		CountrySports tourism generates a lot of money and helps the rural communities. As a sport provider and shooting tenant do i get a say?

FWS044	Gerard Watts		Nowhere have you highlighted the needs of those working in these areas, instead assuming they are a great big outdoors gym
FWS047	Robert Mearns		<p>I am disappointed in this draft as it ignores the rural heritage, social and economic issues. The fragile economic viability of estates/farms that are reliant on open areas. Also that of hotels and cafes need the iconic heathland that tourists come from all over the world to see.</p> <p>Iconic species like Red deer, golden eagles and mountain hares need open hills. Also wading birds that need the fields and open glen floors to survive.</p> <p>I understand that we need trees, both as a commercial crop and native wood land but it needs to be managed sensibly and with compromise on all sides.</p>
FWS050	Anna McCabe		It looks like a good policy, it's great that more woodland areas will be created and current woods will be protected especially at a time when more and more woodland is being felled for houses, pylons, sub stations, battery storage stations - just look at Fetteresso wood at Stonehaven, huge area about to be destroyed. Would also be good if more woods were built on top of hills and then protected to prevent more wind turbines being built, spoiling the area.
FWS052	Deirdre Stewart		Why do Angus Council not engage with land managers on the ground in making these proposals? You'll all be happy to tell us what to do with your strategies- but never seem to engage beforehand to understand the reality or status of our industry as it stands. This will only serve to erode our confidence in your proposals and any resulting bureaucratic interference when at some later date you want us to dance to your tune.
FWS053	Anne Matthews		I welcome it.
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		The Strategy is strong in highlighting the very low percentage of self-sustaining native woodland in Angus. It is not clear how the proposals put forward here will be funded or implemented, especially as any increase in woodland will depend heavily on winning the support of the farming community who effectively decide on how to use their land.
FWS055	Neil Feggans	ScotWays (the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society)	As suggested above, the draft Strategy could make greater capital of the potential of forests and woodlands to attract green tourism and the benefits such tourism could bring to Angus
FWS056		Angus Local Access Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little mention of access in the Strategy document other than a very brief re-iteration of Access rights under the LRA 2003, specifically in relation to Core Paths and

			<p>established RoW, which are to remain unobstructed by (deer)fencing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deer fencing will be required to protect most, if not all, woodland planting programmes, and that is likely to continue throughout the time scale of the Strategy Document (2024-2034). The extent of deer fencing is likely to increase significantly during the decade.• Deer fencing presents a major problem with regard to responsible pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian access to non-excluded land in Scotland. And can/will attract hostility from some legitimate access takers.• Targeted education programmes, explaining both the current critical requirement for deer fencing in the successful reforestation of land, and the significant benefits of reforestation of, particularly 'green desert', areas of land with predominantly native species (recreation and amenity, economic viability, and climate change mitigation) require to be undertaken at a national level. This may impact positively on the success of the Strategy• Entry points should be sited along all core paths and RoW obstructed by deer fencing. In the case of core paths and RoW, gates providing equestrian and disabled access should be constructed, wherever possible.• All footpaths and tracks, including 'through' ATV tracks, marked on the Landranger 1:25000 series of Ordnance Survey maps which are currently obstructed, or likely to be obstructed, by deer fencing, should have entries sited at the point where the path or track is traversed by fencing. These entries should be gates or stiles, ideally and wherever possible the former. However, stiles may be more cost effective in the case of remote foot paths with anticipated low footfall. These should be clearly indicated on updated editions of 'hard copy' maps, and regularly updated on online versions of the maps. It should be incumbent on forestry planners to liaise with OS at the point of planning approval to ensure these access points are included on the maps.• Careful consideration to the planting of ridge lines and summits, to maintain unobstructed views, should be an integral part of the planning process.• A specified distance (eg 25m) on either side of core paths and other well used footpaths/tracks and RoW should be planted with low growing native species. This is likely to enhance the access takers' experience when using the path(s).• In the case of new or extended woodland created close to towns, villages and other communities, it will be appropriate that local consultation is undertaken on the siting of access points and paths. It can be expected that local knowledge and planning advice will be valuable in determining the ultimate recreational use of the woodland.
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Table 32: Themed Grouping of Responses to Question 35 – Other Suggested Policies or Proposals

Theme	Summary of Response	Council Response	Proposed Changes to the LLAs	Respondent ID(s)
Proposed SSEN Pylons	A number of respondents raised concerns regarding proposed SSEN overhead transmission lines.	This is a separate planning matter and does not directly relate to the forestry and woodland strategy.	No change proposed	FWS008, FWS009, FWS017, FWS048
Beavers	Respondent has highlighted the challenges of establishing riparian woodland with beavers,	Beavers are generally considered helpful in managing watercourses as their activities slow the flow of water down catchments. There are techniques available to protect trees from beavers are required. Scottish Forestry will advise on these measures when applications for funding are being assessed.	No change proposed.	FWS003
Landowner involvement	Respondents suggest contacting landowners to encourage involvement.	We will develop approaches to delivery of policies and proposals. Proposal 1 relating to woodland of high nature conservation value may lead to promotion of pilot schemes, grant schemes and could involve direct landowner contact or group site visits.	No change proposed.	FWS012, FWS023, FWS025,
Community Ownership	Respondents suggest that the council should support communities own and manage land including woodland.	Not directly a matter for this strategy but the aspiration is noted.	No change proposed	FWS007, FWS054
Incentives	Repondent suggests incentivising landowners	The policies within the Strategy are supported by the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme.	No change proposed	FWS042

Targets	Respondent seeks timescales and targets	The Strategy does not contain targets but seeks to help deliver the targets of the Scottish Forestry Strategy.	No change proposed	FWS042
Rewilding	Respondent keen for more emphasis on rewilding	The Strategy seeks to balance nature restoration with productivity.	No change proposed	
Farmland	Respondent emphasises importance of farmland for growing food.	Respondent emphasises importance of farmland for growing food.	A new statement has been added in section 5.2: "The focus of woodland expansion should be away from prime agricultural land except where it meets the policy expectations of the Strategy".	FWS039
Grey Squirells	One respondent suggested that the council should have a plan to control grey squirrels.	We are currently in discussions regarding such a project.	No change proposed.	FWS020
Tree felling & housing	Respondent wants felling of trees to stop where planners want to build houses.	The Council generally seeks to retain trees on development sites	No change proposed.	FWS004
Socio-Economic Study	Respondent suggests a full socio economic study into impacts upon local heritage and traditions.	Objective 9 of the Strategy seeks to: "Encourage the integration of forestry and woodland management with other land uses as part of sustainable diversification of rural business".	No change proposed	FWS047
Education	Respondent emphasises importance of education	Working with land managers is important in taking the Strategy forward.	No change proposed	FWS033
Consultation	Two respondents suggested that we consult	A number of countryside sports and deer management groups were emailed directly	No change proposed.	FWS043, FWS052,

	deer management and shooting interests.	specifically inviting them to take part in the consultation.		
No response required	Various comments which do not require a response including support for strategy	The support of the respondents is noted and welcomed.	No change proposed.	FWS036, FWS038, FWS044, FWS048,

Table 33: Public Consultation Responses to Q35 - Other Suggested Policies or Proposals

Respondent ID	Name	Organisation	Q35 (Do have other suggested policies or proposals?)
FWS003	Nicholas Hamilton		The proliferation of beavers in Angus presents significant challenges to land owners and land managers in supporting and helping to implement the policies of the strategy that relate to watercourses and riparian planting
FWS004	Carol Venables		We need to stop felling trees where planners want to build houses, too much green space is being lost
FWS007	Giles Laverack		Angus Council should actively assist community buy out of land wherever the possibility arises as that will make it possible to achieve some of the objectives in this 'strategy'.
FWS008	Amanda Martin		Yes, to protect this same environment from industrial use such as the Net Zero UK Targets. Angus Council is allowing much of the land to be used for Giant Pylons and substations- even farm land should not be used as they are seen for miles as are the many wind farms that are taking over the land. This has to stop  Taking updated electrical developments should be taken underground to protect our environment and its future.
FWS009	Angela Taylor		I have a HUGE concern that this policy which advocates the need to improve the rural qualities of Angus with a view to the future and sustainability, is at odds with proposals which I sincerely hope will NOT be approved to route new overhead cables from Kintore to Tealing. Meanwhile there are an ever increasing proposals to build battery storage facilities, wind turbines and solar farms, thus negating the good proposed in this policy.

			<p>Any new electrical infrastructure involves the REMOVAL of trees, DISTURBANCE of soils, and DESTRUCTION of birds' and animals' habitats.</p> <p>I ask Angus Council to urgently consider their reaction to allowing new electrical infrastructure in relation to this policy. They cannot exist harmoniously together. As your document states that "parts... dominated by electricity pylons, wind turbines erodes special qualities" and "The area around the River South Esk is of area of particular high special qualities"</p> <p>I urge changes to the landscape in Angus to be suited to its rural qualities rather than the industrialisation by new electrical infrastructure.</p>
FWS010	John Wilson		<p>The landscape in Angus/ Scotland has been formed by human interaction. If it is a goal to retain , then walls. Ditches, grassland, policy planting are all important. If the wish is to reset the landscape then that aim is impossible and indeed undesirable.</p>
FWS011	Andrew Hubberstey		<p>Think about how the Lake District has managed to bring huge revenue and people into their AOB and national park. We have to plan for the future as the beauty of Angus is undiscovered and this will not be for much longer, as Dundee and Aberdeen are now progressive and future focused with the Eden Project, Royal Deeside cruises etc.</p>
FWS012	Suzanne Doherty		<p>Suggested proposal - contact current woodland landowners to bring them into the planning of the strategy.</p> <p>Contact landowners where sites have been identified which would benefit from woodland and bring them into the conversation at an early stage.</p>
FWS017	Lyndsey Smith		<p>I urge Angus Council to look carefully at the proposals from SSEN if you are serious about protecting our beautiful county.</p>
FWS020	Hazel Forrest	Scottish Wildlife Trust	<p>Angus Council should consider putting a plan in place for controlling grey and monitoring red and grey squirrels in the region. This is an important region for red squirrels - they are directly threatened by greys here and there is potential for greys from Angus to spread into the Highlands and threaten the UK's core red squirrel population if left unchecked.</p>
FWS023	Kerry Richardson		<p>Encourage landowners to protect their own wee pockets of forest and hedges etc</p>
FWS025	Julie Cave		<p>Engagement with those protecting the animal populations in the proposed areas needs to be considered. Coexistence of trees, animals and people needs to be achieved.</p>

FWS026	Jordan Lynch	The Alba Explorers Ltd	We have submitted a detailed proposal to FLS outlining the development of a facility based in Glen Prosen that hopes to bridge the gap between high quality outdoor and environmental education and practical habitat restoration at a landscape scale. We would love to engage with the council on this.
FWS031	Robin Johnson		More emphasis needs to be given to projects which are free from the influence of humans, such as significant amounts of natural re-wilding and letting nature manage itself once woodland is planted.
FWS033	Gavin Brebner		Ensure that educational opportunities are considered and included where appropriate.
FWS036	Ryan August		No, Despite my numerous comments I'm delighted to see such a comprehensive and considered report and strategy
FWS037	Judith Robertson		Create common ground around towns and villages where people can have an allotments to grow food them selves, encourage activities like beekeeping
FWS038	Jillian Hillock		Prevent destruction of woodland for supposed "green" energy. Removing woodland for industrial type infrastructure like substations, battery storage and pylons is counterproductive in the efforts to reduce CO2 and should be made illegal.
FWS039	Louise Smith		We can't just plant on land that us currently used for farming and then expect to import out food, so a policy on farming and land use with regards to wildlife habitat needs addressed
FWS040	Lesley Anderson	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	As previously mentioned, allowing investment from interested individuals who will uphold the vision of Angus Council on its management of our wonderful and diverse landscape
FWS042	Carol Evans	Lunan Bay Community Partnership	Targets Timescales Protect ancient trees Incentivise planting and help landowners access the support that's out there. Woodland Trust Scotland has a free advisory service for largely native woodland creation, restoration of PAWS sites, AW and subsidised tree packs for landowners. Forest and Land Scotland can help.
FWS043	Michael Hardy		Ask shooting organisations and working estates

FWS044	Gerard Watts		Sadly there is now a track record of Scottish public bodies...NatureScot, Scotgov etc ignoring consultation. I expect this to go the same way!
FWS047	Robert Mearns		A full social and economic study needs to be undertaken, with acknowledgement of local heritage and traditions relating to rural areas and existing employment.
FWS048	Susan Kerr		I was not sure there would be a chance for comments. I'm mainly in agreement with the aforementioned policies. My main concern right now is stopping Scotland becoming industrialised with pylons, sub stations and BSS.
FWS052	Deirdre Stewart		Speak to deer managers in Angus!!!!
FWS054	Anne Dunbar-Nobes		Support should be given to community groups where people actively want to expand an existing woodland area by tree planting and/or community land purchase. Some woodland schemes could be for community orchards, some for nature reserves with paths and open access, and others could be sponsored by community groups e.g. planting up in the glens once the deer population is under control.

Table 34: Responses on Strategy from Statutory Consultation Authorities

Consultation Authority	Response	Council Response
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Part 1: Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy</p> <p>We welcome the preparation of this strategy and its recognition of the important contribution of the designated and undesignated historic environment to Angus' cultural identity and landscape and the need for decision making in relation to forestry and woodland to take account of this. To this end we welcome the creation of Policy 8: Historic Environment which aims to identify and safeguard historic environment assets from the effects of proposals such as woodland expansion. We note that the environmental assessment of the potential of the strategy to significantly impact on historic environment resources relies on the appropriate application of this policy to mitigate impacts.</p>	Duly noted with thanks.

NatureScot

We are pleased that the Strategy seeks to address the twin climate and biodiversity crises however, we would like the strategy to take a more ambitious approach to reflect the urgency of the crises. The Strategy has an opportunity to help address the twin climate and biodiversity crises as it covers a key period over the next 10 years.

There are only two proposals currently identified in the Strategy. The Strategy would benefit from more specific proposals. Identifying specific actions is also recommended as targeted action will ensure that the benefits of the Strategy are realised and enable it to deliver for the twin crises and be more meaningful for Angus. We do recognise and appreciate that many actions will require a co-ordinated approach. We suggest the production of an action plan to accompany the Strategy could provide more locational guidance and actions and should be explored.

The policy wording should be strengthened and expanded and include an enhancement section for biodiversity, riparian woodland, montane woodland, Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value (WHNCV) etc. We recommend proposals could be included to implement biodiversity enhancement for example for riparian woodland. This could also support and link to Nature Networks and 30x30 contributing to increasing habitat connectivity in Angus.

It would be helpful for the Strategy to contain a summary explanation of how the online map/maps referenced in the Strategy were created, e.g. what data/information was used, the methodology and limitations etc. This would enable readers to better understand what the maps show/are unable to show and how the maps might be used. We recommend this is included in an appendix to the Strategy.

We suggest the Strategy needs to be clearer in setting out the importance and urgency of deer management. Deer populations need to be urgently reduced as it is one of the

It is considered that the Strategy contains ambition and that the role of woodland and forestry is strongly emphasised in addressing the twin climate and biodiversity crises. The statutory requirement is that the council produces a Strategy and contains the Council's policies on forestry and woodland. It is not an action plan, but will provide a strong policy foundation for actions either through the action programme of the forthcoming Local Development Plan or through action plans including Local Biodiversity Action Plan or the River South Esk Catchment Management Plan.

Nature Networks are currently being developed for Angus, and it is recognised that the Strategy includes policies which will underpin these from a woodland perspective.

Discussed below.

The word urgent has been included as requested below. However, the statutory responsibilities for deer management and control lies with NatureScot. The Council

biggest limiting factors across many of the policies in delivering the biodiversity objectives. Angus Council should set out what is proposed to reduce high deer numbers.

We have included detailed comments on the Strategy in Annex 1.

Executive Summary

There is a lot of repetition here with other sections in the Strategy. The Executive Summary should be kept simple and highlight the key points/messages the Strategy intends to convey.

'It is generally considered that a red deer population of around 5 animals per km² would enable native woodland to regenerate naturally' – given the highly degraded state of much of the natural heritage in Angus currently. Herbivore densities need to be lower than this to allow the habitat to recover. Once it has recovered then this sort of density could be sustainable.

Section 1 – Introduction

There is no mention of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Appraisal and how this has shaped the Strategy. It is recommended that this is included.

It would be helpful to understand what the previous Angus Forestry and Woodland Strategy achieved and what has changed since then. Was there a monitoring strategy in place and what were the results of this? We suggest this could be summarised in this section.

has no powers in this regard and we hope that NatureScot can assist in meeting the policy aspirations contained within the Strategy.

The Executive Summary has been reviewed and small changes made, but no repetition found.

The strategy has reduced the deer density ambition to 2-5 deer per square kilometres in line with latest Scottish Forestry guidance.

This has been added to the Strategy. The following text:

“The Strategy has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitat Regulations Appraisal”.

Reference to the previous framework has been included in the introduction

“The Strategy applies to the part of Angus for which Angus Council is planning authority. Therefore the part of Angus within the Cairngorms National Park is covered by the Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy. This is the first statutory Forestry & Woodland Strategy for Angus, but it replaces the non-statutory Angus Woodland and Forestry Framework (2011). It is intended that the Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy provides the Council’s policy in relation to forestry and woodlands for the period 2024–2034 and

As Angus County Boundary overlaps with the Cairngorms National Park it would be beneficial to explain relationship/synergies with this Strategy and the Cairngorms National Park Forestry Strategy. This could be included here and/or in section 4. There is some consideration for example in section 1.16 of the Environmental Report which discusses the relationship between the approach to deer management which may be helpful to include in the Strategy too.

Section 2 – Vision

Having targets here for what Angus will be like in 2034 may strengthen this vision especially given the urgency of the twin climate and biodiversity crises. What is the vision for Angus in 2034?

Section 3 – Objectives

Objective 1 – we support the significant expansion of WHNCV. We recommend replacing ‘encourage’ with ‘increase’ to use more positive/enabling language. The wording/language in the Strategy could be much stronger to reflect the urgency of the biodiversity and climate crises.

Objective 5 – we are unclear what Angus Council is proposing to address here as trees and woodlands already do absorb carbon and mitigate effects of climate change.

Objective 6 – ‘productive forestry’ should include native hardwoods as well as coniferous plantations.

Section 4 – Policy Background

Under the heading ‘Tackling the Nature Emergency – Scottish biodiversity strategy to 2045’ include emerging Local Nature Conservation Sites, 30x30 and Nature Networks. How is 30x30 and Nature Networks frameworks integrated within the Strategy?

Section 5 – Policy Guidance

how Angus can contribute towards delivery of Scotland’s Forestry Strategy”.

The relationship with the Cairngorms Nation Park Forest Strategy has been added.

We have not created targets specifically for Angus other than contributing towards the national targets.

Requested change made to objective 1.

“through increased area” added.

The objective is not specific as worded therefore includes both hardwood and softwood species. Preference to keep wording succinct.

This section relates to policy background and designations are discussed in 5.4. Emerging proposals are not included.

Box 1 – Native Woodland Survey of Scotland, Angus (2013) – this section summarises this report however, we recommend there is a discussion of these findings because they should inform actions. The main priority habitat types listed are upland birch woods, native pine woods and wet woodland. We note that native pine woods are not a key habitat type in Angus. We advise that the ravine ash/elm woodlands and the upland oak woodlands which have been degraded into birch woodlands are also key priority habitat types.

Map 2 – it is difficult to differentiate between the colours here, if possible, contrasting colours would make it easier to see the different categories. It would be helpful to understand how the expansion zones were identified and how these will be delivered? It does not seem to be a very significant area and we suggest this could be a much more ambitious area given there is only 3.35% WHNCV in Angus.

Under section titled 'Opportunities to expand woodland of HNCV' it is mentioned that 'substantial opportunities exist to expand native woodland'. What are these opportunities and how can Angus Council ensure these opportunities are implemented?

The wording of the policies here should be consistent with NPF4 Policy 6.

Policy 1(a) – as there is a very low % of WHNCV in Angus this should be more strongly worded in line with wording in NPF4 to e.g 'proposals will not be supported where they result in any loss of WHNCV'.

Policy 1(h) – we are pleased that this is included however, recommend that commercial non-native woodland should not be planted within at least 100m of WHNCV.

Comments noted with interest. However this box is a summary copied from the report, therefore would be inappropriate to modify content.

It probably is in part the scale of the map in the Strategy. The online map viewer should hopefully be helpful. We will however review colours in the future.

The opportunities are explained in the paragraph which follows the text.

Change to wording in Strategy changed as requested.

We have discussed this in detail with Scottish Forestry who will operationally be implementing the Strategy. This has been considered alongside the 50m natural regeneration zones for WHNCV, which we resolved to a description of "at least 50m". Excluding forestry for 100m may have unintended consequences of preventing the creation of forest and woodland habitat networks. In balance, we have left- them at 50m.

Proposal 1 – We support this proposal but delete wording ‘explore constraints’ as we already know what these are and ‘if required’ as the Strategy has already identified that a project is needed to achieve this. Can Angus Council help co-ordinate/deliver a project? We recommend the proposal sets out what project will achieve this.

Section 5.2 – Productive Forestry – many of these are not just confined to productive woodland but native expansion/regeneration too.

Section 5.3 – Climate Resilient Landscapes – ‘Forests and woodlands have significant potential to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration’ - There is also opportunity to increase resilience and sequester more carbon through planting and restoration and stewardship of hedges and areas of agroforestry/orchards/wood pasture. There has been little mention of these in the body of the Strategy but this is something Angus Council could support.

The cutting and management of hedgerows and verges is something Angus Council has direct responsibility for and reducing cutting could enhance carbon sequestration and biodiversity value and reduce costs.

Section 5.4 – Biodiversity – the HRA should be cross referenced here in relation to European sites.

Designated sites and priority species – the wader species are not just found in Glen Clova but wider Angus Glens.

Section 5.5 – Montane Woodland - moorland management too is important. How much of Angus upland is managed as a shooting estate?

Policy 6 – how will deer be addressed in riparian woodlands? We support montane and riparian policies. Can there be a proposal linked to enhance existing and significantly increase amounts of both?

Section 5.9 – Deer management and Fencing – ‘deer populations should be managed’ should be reworded to ‘urgently reduced’

We are unsure of the full list of constraints and whether we will have an ability to address them. The feasibility and objectives of such a project would follow exploratory discussion. The text has been amended to frame the proposal as “explore the feasibility of the project”.

Agreed – we do not see an absolute distinction between productive and native woodland.

Hedges and verges are beyond the scope of this Strategy, but silvopature and silvoarable have been added to the supporting text within the Strategy.

The text in relation to waders has been made more generalised also a result of comments from RSPB. Upland heath has been added to the list of potential wader habitats.

We are not aware of the area managed as shooting estate.

The policy is not specific to the uplands. There is little data on lowland deer populations. Given the statutory responsibilities of NatureScot in relation to deer management and control, we would seek the support of NatureScot in addressing deer issues in general.

Suggested wording included. We look forward to NatureScot assisting in the implementation of this policy.

	<p>'around 5 animals per km2' – we suggest this needs to be less than 5 for at least 20 years. It is also about ecosystem restoration and not just enabling woodland to regenerate naturally.</p> <p>Policy 9 – this should be worded to be more proactive and urgent as this is critical.</p> <p>Proposal 2 – Angus Council should consider the issue of limiting access for wildlife protection in some woods. What proposals is Angus Council going to develop and implement that increase the quantity and quality of accessible woodland in Angus?</p> <p>Section 6 – Area Guidance Include 'and enhance their biodiversity value.' Other areas with low sensitivity – connectivity is important here native tree lines, shelterbelts, hedges etc. 'important peatlands' – this wording should be changed to 'peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitat' in line with NPF4.</p> <p>The map – what data and methodologies used? An explanation of each of the categories on the map and the source of the datasets would be beneficial to include in an Appendix to the strategy.</p>	<p>The Strategy text has been amended to 2-5, which accords with latest Scottish Forestry guidance. The Strategy already states "Reduced deer densities will also allow upland vegetation to recover, reduce erosion and create more resilient landscapes able to adapt to and mitigate effects of climate change".</p> <p>"Urgent" added to policy 9.</p> <p>The Council is currently developing management plans for council owned woodland. Your suggestion is noted.</p> <p>Text added as requested.</p> <p>The mapped categories have been derived in discussion with NatureScot. These are described in the supporting text. Other carbon rich soils outwith those categories have not been mapped under that category. In the uplands these are likely to have been captured in the category "mountain and plateaux", Policy 5 of NPF4 relates specifically to development.</p> <p>The descriptions of each category include the source of data used as necessary.</p>
<p>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</p>	<p>No submission in respect to Strategy.</p>	