Appendix B

The Granite City Forest Tree and Woodland Strategy Environmental Review

Appendix 1: Scoping Report Comments Table

Appendix 2: Relationship with other PPS

Non-Technical Summary (to be written following receipt of comments from EP)

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a method for assessing the environmental effects of plans and strategies during their preparation which allows for the mitigation of any adverse effects before implementation of the plan. A key part of SEA is consultation which gives members of the public and other interested organisations an opportunity to comment on the draft strategy and its environmental effects. SEA is required under The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 which will be referred to as the 2005 Act.

The SEA process comprises the following key steps:

- **Screening** – establish whether an SEA is required
- **Scoping** – identify the method and scope of the assessment and set the environmental baseline
- **Environmental Assessment** – assess the potential environmental impact of the strategy
- **Consultation** – put the strategy and Environmental Report (ER) out for consultation with Consultative Authorities and other stakeholders including the public
- **Finalisation** – compile the comments received in response to the strategy and ER and amend the documents accordingly
- **Monitoring** – monitor significant environmental effects and take appropriate remedial action

The document being assessed in this ER is the *Granite City Forest Tree and Woodland Strategy Consultation Draft March 2019* (TWS).

From the above it is clear that the process is iterative which makes the strategy responsive to potential impacts established during the SEA process.

1.2 Purpose of the Environmental Report (ER)

The ER is the output from the assessment process. It is produced in response to the consultee comments on the scoping report and the assessment of the strategy and alternative options in relation to existing plans, policies and strategies (PPS). It also provides a clear description of the main objectives of the TWS.

1.3 Key Facts about the Tree and Woodland Strategy (TWS)

The key facts relating to the TWS are set out in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Key Facts relating to the TWS

Responsible Authority	Aberdeen City Council
Title of the PPS	Granite City Forest - a Tree and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeen
What prompted the PPS	The Planning (Scotland) Act 2006 and redundancy of the previous Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Forestry Strategy
Subject	Land Use and Forestry
Period covered by the PPS	2019 - 2044
Frequency of updates	Every five years
Area covered by the PPS	The Aberdeen City Council administrative area.

Purpose and/or objectives of the PPS	To identify objectives and actions for the stewardship and expansion of trees and woodlands in urban and rural areas in the Aberdeen City Council administrative area. The strategy will focus on themes relating to the ecosystem services provided by trees and woodlands including climate change, economy, health, communities, biodiversity and cultural heritage.
Contact Point	Steven Shaw Environmental Manager Environmental Services Altens East Recycling and Resource Facility Hareness Place ABERDEEN AB12 3GX STEVENS@aberdeencity.gov.uk

1.4   SEA Activities to date

The TWS was developed through a partnership approach with a steering group and written by Chris Piper FICFor, a Chartered Forester on behalf of Aberdeen City Council (ACC) with an established track record in the preparation of local authority tree and woodland strategies The steering group consisted of representatives from relevant ACC services, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland (now Scottish Forestry) which have agreed a draft purpose, vision, themes and objectives for the TWS which will be refined with stakeholders through the SEA process.

At each stage of the SEA process, there is a requirement to consult the statutory Consultation Authorities (CA); these are Historic Environment Scotland (HES), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

A screening opinion was sought from SEA Gateway in September 2017 and comments were received from the CA. It was determined that the strategy did require an SEA.

A scoping report was produced in December 2017 and submitted to the SEA Gateway and the CA. The report set out initial information on the likelihood of significant effects arising from the TWS and provided an evidence base that would be used to inform the assessment. The representations from the CA have modified and approved the scope of the assessment and content of this report, the ER. The comments from the CA and how they have been taken into account are summarised in Appendix 1.

The following SEA topics have been scoped into the assessment:

- Climatic factors
- Air
- Water
- Soil
- Biodiversity, flora and fauna
- Landscape
- Cultural heritage
- Population
- Human health
- Material assets

2 Outline and Objectives of the TWS and Alternatives

2.1 Outline

The TWS will set out the vision, strategy and objectives for the future of Aberdeen's trees and woodlands. It will provide a 25 year framework for ensuring that the functions and benefits of Aberdeen's trees and woodlands are recognised, valued and embedded in policies, plans and decisions.

The TWS will provide the mechanism for delivering this vision based on a number of key themes, together with policy objectives and operational priorities.

The TWS has identified the following five strategic themes as drivers for achieving the vision:

1. Stewardship and expansion
2. Climate change
3. Economic value
4. People, health and communities
5. Environmental, historical and cultural heritage

The strategy will cover all trees and woodlands within the ACC administrative area, including trees which are publicly and privately owned, and in urban and rural areas. Trees and woodlands in adjoining parts of Aberdeenshire will also be considered where they influence the delivery of tree and woodland objectives within Aberdeen. A strategic GIS-based map of areas suitable for woodland planting is a key element of the TWS.

2.2 Purpose

The strategy's purpose is to:

a) Provide strategic objectives and spatial guidance for the expansion of a variety of woodland types and tree planting across the whole of the Aberdeen City local authority area, ensuring cross-border compatibility with Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy (2016).
b) Guide public and private sector funding applications for tree planting and woodland creation and management.
c) Influence sustainable development: provide a stronger and clearer foundation for the protection, management, expansion and enhancement of trees and woodlands in relation to future development.
d) Provide a framework for relating trees to other priorities and initiatives, including quality of life, social inclusion and equality, and health and economic wellbeing.
e) Provide a vehicle for raising awareness and understanding about the values and functions of trees and woodlands.
f) Develop a more robust means of capturing, maintaining and monitoring data on the City's trees and woodlands.

2.3 Alternatives

The 2005 Act requires that ACC identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of any reasonable alternatives to the draft Strategy. The alternatives considered were as follows:

Business as usual: No new strategy would be created and the 2005 strategy would remain active.

No strategy: No new strategy would be created and the existing 2005 strategy would be revoked.

Woodland only strategy: A strategy which focusses on the key woodland issues for the City, similar to the 2005 strategy.

Tree and woodland strategy: A strategy which applies to all urban and rural trees and woodlands and includes a spatial plan to inform woodland creation grants.

Each was assessed in relation to the SEA topics scoped into the assessment and a summary written (Table 4.1).

3 TWS Context

3.1 Relationship with other PPS and environmental protection objectives

Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act requires that the ER includes an outline of the relationships of the TWS with other relevant PPS, and how environmental protection objectives have been taken into account in the TWS preparation. This section covers these issues and describes the policy context within which the TWS will operate, and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the TWS.

Detailed analysis of the relationship with other relevant PPS is set out in Appendix 2.

It is intended that the TWS will be adopted as Supplementary Guidance to a future ACC Local Development Plan to better inform developers on how existing trees and woodland and new tree planting should be protected and incorporated into new developments.

The most relevant PPS to the TWS is the UK Forestry Standard 2017 (UKFS) which sets out the criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests and woodlands in the UK and aims to promote good forestry practice.

The UKFS includes a set of guidelines which explain the principles of the various elements of sustainable forest management in detail and set out how the UKFS can be met in relation to each of the topic areas. The topic areas are Forests and Biodiversity; Forests and Climate Change; Forests and Historic Environment; Forests and Landscape; Forests and People; Forests and Soil; Forests and Water. These guidelines provide an existing framework of mitigation for potential impacts of the TWS.

The key points arising from the detailed analysis of related PPS to the TWS are as follows:

- Promote the sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere;
- Adapt to the effects of climate change through appropriate species selection;
- Promote the sustainable use of natural resources taking account of an ecosystems approach;
- Follow established forestry guidelines to deliver environmental objectives
- Protect and enhance biodiversity, species and habitats;
- Promote the sustainable management of soils;
- Maintain, protect and enhance landscape character and cultural assets;
- Avoid adverse effects on the water environment and any increased flood risk;
- Promote woodland expansion;
- Support appropriate siting of trees and woodlands;
- Maintain a sustainable forestry industry;
- Ensure no impact on peatlands;
- Improve accessibility to existing and future woodlands;
- Support measures which encourage deer management;
- Ensure that designated nature conservation sites are not affected;

- Ensure that ancient woodland is not affected and where appropriate restored.;
- Recognise the importance of trees and woodland in the landscape;
- Support renewable energy through the increased use of woodfuel;
- Promote the role of trees and woodland in enhancing opportunities for public access to the natural environment;
- Increase community engagement with the natural environment; and,
- Use existing tree and woodland PPS to minimise negative impacts on the environment.

3.2 Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act requires the Environmental Report to include a description of "*the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without the implementation of the Plan or Programme*", and "*the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected*". The provision of this information allows a description of the relevant environmental context within which the strategy will operate. The detailed tabulation of the baseline data is presented in Appendix 8.2 of the Scoping Report. A summary is provided in Table 3.1 of this report. The relevant aspects have been included at an appropriate level of detail; it was deemed unnecessary to include detailed baseline data in this report as it is a strategy that is being assessed and not an individual project. The important information is where to find the baseline data when a specific project is being taken forward.

The likely evolution of the environment without implementation of the TWS needs to be considered. Changes to the environmental baseline are inevitable due to natural processes and human activity but these are largely unpredictable. Without the TWS many of the existing environmental and cultural benefits would remain but would not be maximised through the incorporation of new guidelines, including the UKFS and the publicity and positive endorsement surrounding a new and up to date strategy. Since the production of the 2005 Strategy many of the conditions that have influenced the nature of forestry have changed significantly; for example, climate change and renewable energy have now become major drivers for extending woodland cover. In addition, the role of woodlands has increased in importance due to a recognition of the associated health benefits and the concept of green networks is recognised in increasing the biodiversity value of existing woodlands.

Table 3.1   Summary of Baseline Data

SEA Indicator	ACC Information	Comment	Data source(s)
Climatic Factors	Natural Resources 5.73 gha (2007)	Footprint is higher than the Scottish average	Scotland's Global Footprint http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/sgf_final_report.pdf
	Total CO_2 emissions in 2016 1,365kt	Industry and Commercial Gas is the biggest contributor to ACC's CO_2 emissions.	National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory: http://naei.defra.gov.uk/data/local-authority-co2-map
	Flooding ACC 4 potentially vulnerable areas; Bridge of Don,	Unpredictable impact from Climate Change	North East Local Plan District (2016 – 2022)

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	Denmore, Deeside and Peterculter		https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17174/north-east-local-flood-risk-management-plan-2016-2022-web-version.pdf
Air	NO_2 and PM10	Levels exceed national objectives in a number of locations	Air Quality in Scotland http://www.scottishairquality.scot/
Water	2017 GW - Good Surface – Bad, Poor, Moderate Dee Estuary -Good Don Estuary - High	Water quality variable in the area	Water Classification Hub Interactive Map https://www.sepa.org.uk/data-visualisation/water-classification-hub/
Soil	Minor areas of Class 3.1	LCA classes 1, 2 and 3.1 unsuitable for tree planting	Scotland's Capability Maps http://map.environment.gov.scot/
	Peat Soils, refer to SNH Carbon and Peatland Map 2016 (SNH Natural Spaces)	Trees should not be planted on areas with peat > 0.5m	Scotland's Soils Website http://map.environment.gov.scot/
Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	International SAC – 1 (River Dee SAC) pSPA – 1 (Ythan Estuary SPA)	Guidelines in UKFAS must be followed to ensure soil erosion from forestry operations does not impact on Natura Sites	MAGIC https://magic.defra.gov.uk/
	National SSSI – 4 (Corby, Lily and Bishops Lochs, Cove, Nigg Bay and Scotstown Moor)	Citation documents, maps management statements and summary conditions can be viewed at SNH SiteLink	SNH SiteLink https://sitelink.nature.scot/home
	Statutory LNR – 4 (Den of Maidencraig, Donmouth, Kincorth Hill, Scotstown Moor)	LNRs are designated and managed by local authorities ACC Countryside Ranger Service	SNH SiteLink for locations https://sitelink.nature.scot/home
	Local Local Nature Conservation Sites LNCS – 45	LNCS maps https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/local-nature-conservation-site-maps	Aberdeen City Local Nature Conservation Sites Booklet https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2017-09/2013_LNCS_Booklet_LR_0.pdf
	Woodland	Area of native woodland in ACC 514ha – 19% conifer 81% broadleaved	Native Woodland Survey of Scotland Aberdeen City 2013 https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/fcs-nwss-aberdeen.pdf

	Ancient Woodland SNH Natural Spaces	Data are out of date and difficult to use	https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/dataset.jsp?dsid=AWI
Landscape	Landscape Character Types in the ACC area can be viewed on an interactive map on the SNH website. The LCTs include urban, low hills, wooded estates, and undulating open farmland.	Landscape is defined as an area, as perceived by people, whose visual features and character are the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors	SNH website, Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/landscape-character-assessment-scotland
Cultural Heritage	Listed Buildings (1,215), Scheduled Monuments (44), Conservation Areas (11), Gardens and Designed Landscapes (1), Archaeological Sites (699).	ACC has a high number of important cultural heritage sites	Historic Environment Scotland Designations Map Search http://historicscotland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=18d2608ac1284066ba3927312710d16d
Population	Established Population (2018) 227,560 Predicted Population in 2026 237,169	ACC had the 8th highest population in 2018, out of all 32 council areas in Scotland	National Records of Scotland https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/council-area-data-sheets/aberdeen-city-council-profile.html
Human Health	Open Space 3471ha not including private gardens Green Networks	Open Space Strategy 2011 – 2016 was based on the Open Space Audit 2010	ACC Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2010 https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2010_openspaceaudit_report_appendices.pdf
	ACC Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2015 – 2017 Male – 77 years Female – 81 years	Both male and female ACC averages are the same as the averages for Scotland	Life Expectancy in Scottish Areas 2015-2017 https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/life-expectancy-areas-in-scotland/15-17/life-expectancy-15-17-publication.pdf
Material Assets	A wide ranging topic including the protection of properties from flooding to the transport network	ACC statistics on topics such as housing, education, the economy, health and wellbeing and tourism	Behind the Granite Aberdeen City Key Facts 2016 https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2018-02/Behind%20the%20Granite%202016.pdf

3.3 Likely Evolution of the Environment without the TWS

It is envisaged that future changes to the environment are inevitable due to natural processes, and also due to human interventions that are unconnected with the TWS. The existing environmental issues outlined in Section 3.4 will probably persist in the absence of the TWS but it will contribute to reducing some environmental issues in many SEA Topic areas. However, the positive effects of the TWS will be limited without concerted efforts across a range of sectors on climate change and development pressures. Potential changes to the environmental baseline without the TWS are listed in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2   Potential environmental changes without the TWS

SEA Topic	Possible changes without the TWS
Climatic Factors	The carbon footprint of Aberdeen is high and is likely to increase. The effects of climate change on the environment, economy and society will increase. Some opportunities for mitigating and adapting to these changes will be missed.
Air	Air quality is an issue in parts of the city resulting from human activities and other PPS promoting economic growth and development and it is likely to become a focus for improvement.
Water	Adverse effects on water quality and quantity would remain but improvements in quality are likely to occur through the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Climate change and associated land use changes, will increasingly impact on the water environment.
Soil	In the medium to long term soil issues will persist because of planned and unplanned land-use change and expansion of the city. These impacts are likely to become significant and require increased focus for protection. Pressures on material assets from new development, reducing local budgets, and climate change are expected to continue. Demands for space in rural and urban areas for new housing, infrastructure and renewable energy is expected to continue to conflict with woodland and tree resources until the value of these resources is reflected in cost-benefit analysis (natural capital accounting).
Biodiversity, flora & fauna	Adverse and beneficial effects on biodiversity caused by other plans and activities and by natural processes and human induced change would remain, including the loss and fragmentation of habitats and effects on protected species. Increased fragmentation of woodland habitats would continue. It is expected that current trends will continue due to the range of threats involved, notably from built development and climate change. Continued herbivore pressure on existing woodlands.
Landscape	The steady evolution of the landscape in relation to human activity, biological processes and climate change would continue. There would be a greater risk of unplanned woodland expansion adversely affecting landscape character and quality.
Cultural Heritage	Proposals within the area from other plans, natural processes and climate change would continue to affect the setting of the historic environment.
Population & Human Health	Human population is likely to continue to increase in Aberdeen. Health issues associated with inactivity and old age are likely to increase. There will be an ongoing disconnection between the majority of the population and rural areas. Access to good quality green spaces will continue to be unequal. However, there will be increasing demands on some of the services provided by forestry and woodlands, notably recreation and woodfuel.

3.4 Environmental issues and opportunities relevant to the TWS

Schedule 3 of the 2005 Act requires the Environmental Report to include a description of existing relevant environmental problems. This will help explore whether a strategy could exacerbate known environmental problems and ensure that the most benefit is gained from the strategy.

In line with this requirement Table 3.3 highlights the potential environmental issues and opportunities relevant to the TWS. Many of the potential problems would be avoided by adherence to guidance contained in the UKFS which is advocated by the TWS.

Table 3.3   Environmental issues and opportunities relevant to the TWS

Environmental Topic	Issues/Opportunities	Possible role of the TWS
Climatic Factors	Greenhouse gas emissions Extreme weather events incl flood events Adaption to climate change and its potential impacts Tree diseases and other climate related threats	Promote the role of trees in sequestering and storing carbon Avoid disturbance of carbon rich soils Promote the role of trees in the reduction of surface water run-off Promote resilient woodlands through appropriate tree species choice
Air	Decreased air quality in parts of Aberdeen city and along busy routes impacting people's health Atmospheric pollutants impacting sensitive habitats	Promote the role of trees in built areas and within green spaces to improve air quality Increase the resilience of air pollution sensitive habitats
Water	Diffuse pollution impacting the water environment including Don and Dee and their tributaries Contamination of water bodies due to surface water run-off in flood events Alteration of beds, banks and shores of rivers and coastal waters Impacts of flooding on land use and vice versa	Provide guidance on the role of trees and woodlands in land use change which reduces pollution impacts on waterbodies Promote land use change which reduces flood risk and minimises flood impacts on land use and communities
Soil	Development and forestry leading to soil loss and erosion with potential impact on River Dee SAC Limited growing opportunities within the city Contaminated land and its impacts on land use and soil quality Loss of soil organic matter and increased carbon dioxide emissions	Promote land use change and management which reduces impacts on soil Encourage tree and woodland protection and planting to reduce landslip and erosion risks in appropriate locations. Promote land use change and management which protects and increases soil carbon stores
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Protection of internationally (River Dee SAC), nationally and locally designated sites (including ancient woodland inventory sites) Decrease fragmentation of semi-natural habitats	Take account of and protect designated sites incl ancient woodland resource Enhance links between semi-natural areas

Environmental Topic	Issues/Opportunities	Possible role of the TWS
	Damage to woodland due to herbivore browsing pressures, particularly deer Loss of green space, green linkages and wildlife corridors Continued loss of biodiversity	Provide a strategic basis for the protection and new planting of trees and woodlands in green spaces Develop TWS in accordance with deer management best practice recommendations Promote woodland creation and management practice that protects and enhances biodiversity
Geodiversity	Little recognition of geodiversity features in Aberdeen There are 57 Geological Review Sites within ACC and Aberdeenshire	Promote woodland creation and tree planting in areas which avoid impacts on important geodiversity features and characteristics
Landscape	Loss of diversity in the landscape Tree elements in historic and designed landscapes (for example wooded estates) are declining and being lost due to development pressures. Tree features such as beech shelter belts are declining Visual impacts of new forests, woodlands and tree planting Loss of street trees	Guidance and policy to ensure that landscape and woodland design principles are used so that the diversity and character of Aberdeen landscapes and townscapes, and the setting of Aberdeen, is enhanced through new tree and woodland planting, and better woodland management, referring to the Aberdeen Landscape Study guidelines (in preparation)
Cultural Heritage	Vulnerability of historic and cultural heritage assets to land use management and change	Ensure the TWS considers the cultural heritage and historic assets of the area
Population	Increasing population and inequalities between sectors of society Changing demographics – ageing and increasingly urbanised population	Consider the needs of all sectors of society Promote the importance of trees in the urban environment to supporting inward investment and property values
Human Health	Inequalities in health and access to greenspace Mental and physical wellbeing Elevated levels of NO_2 and PM10 have a negative impact on human health, particularly among vulnerable groups	Promote the importance of trees and woodlands in new development and infrastructure, and healthy places for activity, including greenspaces and tree lined streets Promote the role of trees and woodlands in green infrastructure to improve air quality
Material Assets	Timber resource and the proportion of timber imports Renewable energy developments	Promote wood based renewable energy development where this does not compromise health or climate change objectives Support a sustainable timber resource and industry in the region

3.5   Data Limitations

It is a requirement of the 2005 Act to record any difficulties encountered in compiling the information for the assessment. The unpredictable nature of climate change on individual resources makes it difficult to judge the baseline information required and the impact of the TWS. In addition, some data sources need updating.

3.6   SEA Objectives

Questions have been outlined for each of the SEA topics scoped into the assessment; these break down the topics into more manageable and realistic indicators for the collation of baseline information and assessment of impacts.

4   Assessment

4.1   Alternatives considered

The 2005 Act requires that ACC identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of any reasonable alternatives to the draft Strategy. The alternatives were assessed in relation to the SEA topics scoped into the assessment and a summary written which is included in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1   Summary of Assessment of Alternatives

Alternatives	Assessment
Business as usual 2005 Strategy remains	Much of the content of the 2005 Strategy is still relevant. However, there are a number of issues that have moved on, particularly in relation to national and local policy contexts with regard to the Scottish Governments' approach to integrated land use, forestry and our understanding of climate change. Politically, woodland expansion has become more prominent and thus requires a greater focus to maximise its benefits and achieve Scottish Government targets. The 2005 Strategy is now not widely used so its many potentially beneficial actions are not being translated to on the ground action. The current trends and issues in relation to trees and woodland would remain under this scenario. These include generally positive management of existing woodland and improvement in recreation facilities but integration with other land uses would remain limited. The woodlands skills shortage would continue, and the effects of climate change would not be fully factored into woodland planning and management. Also, the opportunity to further boost the visibility and potential multiple benefits of woodland management which would arise from a new strategy would be lost. In essence, many of the existing environmental and cultural benefits would remain but would not be maximised through the incorporation of new guidelines, including compliance with the UKFS and the publicity and positive endorsement surrounding a new and up to date strategy.
No strategy 2005 Strategy revoked	The management of ACC's tree and woodland resource is judged to have a number of positive economic, environmental and social impacts currently. Based on national policy, organisational practice and culture, these are likely to continue into the future without a strategy but the chance to tackle some key issues in a targeted coordinated fashion in the Council area would be lost.

	In essence, a strategy is required to maximise the benefits of existing trees and woodland and to encourage the planting of new trees and woodland in a coordinated manner. It is also needed by the Scottish Government's forestry agency – Scottish Forestry – to help with the appropriate targeting of its Forestry Grant funding to the most appropriate areas for woodland expansion linked to achievement of SG new woodland creation targets. Revoking the 2005 Strategy would prevent this
Woodland only strategy Similar to the 2005 Strategy	Clearly the impacts of this option would be similar to the "Business as usual" option above. ACC, includes a large urban area, has many trees as well and woodland areas so it is important that these are included in the strategy and their benefits maximised.
TWS Strategy for trees and woodland	The proposed TWS brings together national and local forestry-related policy contexts, forestry guidelines and local ACC circumstances which have been gleaned from ACC staff who have worked in the area and are aware of the local issues relating to trees and woodland. The strategy highlights the key issues for the area based on extensive consultation and coordinates them so as to maximise benefits and minimise impacts. It aims to add value to existing practice, consider woodland creation in a coordinated and practical way with full knowledge of the time and resource availability within the Council. Thus, it would build on existing positive effects of "Business as usual" and ensure that the latest guidelines were taken note of during the planning and implementation stages of tree and woodland proposals.

4.2 Scope of the SEA

The following SEA topics have been scoped into the assessment following submission of the Scoping Report to the SEA Gateway: Climatic factors, Air, Water, Soil, Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Landscape, Cultural heritage, Population, Human health and Material assets. The TWS will be assessed in relation to each of these topics using the indicator questions.

4.3 Assessment Framework

Questions were devised in the Scoping Report for each of the SEA topics and these have been asked in order to assess whether the potential impacts of the TWS are likely to be negative, positive, uncertain, mixed or neutral. Each theme of the TWS was assessed individually and then the results combined to show the cumulative effects of the TWS which are outlined in Table 4.2. The following system has been used to score the potential impacts of the TWS in each SEA topic:

++	Significant positive effects likely		-	Some negative effects likely
+	Some positive effects likely		- -	Significant negative effects likely
0	Neutral – no likely effects		+/-	Mixed ?Uncertain

Table 4.2 Cumulative Effects of the TWS

Will the TWS...	Score	Comments	Mitigation/Enhancement
Climatic Factors			
Reduce or minimise greenhouse gas emissions in the city? Reduce the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and flooding? Increase, and promote, the beneficial role of trees and woodlands in flood plains and where surface water run-off, landslip and erosion needs to be controlled? Reduce or minimise energy use and maximise use of renewable resources? Increase woodland and tree resilience through planting of appropriate species and control of invasive non-native species?	+	The strategy should lead to an increase in the number and quality of trees and woodlands in the ACC area which in turn will increase their role in climate change mitigation and adaption. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but the amounts are small compared with the amounts emitted from sources in the City. UK Forest and Climate Change (Forest Research) provides information on the actual amounts removed and stored. Woodland Carbon Code 2011 outlines the creation of carbon woodlands which will be increased with the TWS as a result of its own programme of woodland expansion within Aberdeen City. Research supports that greater woodland and tree cover ameliorates the extremes of weather events. Trees contribute to flood management by intercepting rainfall, slowing runoff into watercourses and by stabilising slopes. Currently ACC area timber is used as a fuel at ACC properties; with more coordinated management this could be increased within the City. Tree species choice will be selected on a site by site basis for future resilience to predicted changes in growing conditions arising from climate change, extreme events and pests and diseases.	Ensure that all planting is undertaken following the UKFS which has a section on Forests and Climate Change. Include more references and links to Forestry Commission documents for specific advice on forestry and climate change. The TWS will have a minor positive effect on CO_2 levels as individual trees lock up approximately 2 kg of CO_2/year.
Air			
Help reduce levels of air pollution? Help regulate the local climate?	+	In general, trees and woodlands can have a positive impact on air quality, particularly if they are carefully planned so as to maximise benefits – location and species choice being important. However, some localised negative effects would	Targeted planting of trees in areas of poor air quality could be explored through the planning process.

Will the TWS...	Score	Comments	Mitigation/Enhancement
		result from the use and transportation of woodfuel as an alternative heating and electricity source. Also, there is a complex relationship between trees in urban areas with heavy traffic as the canopies can restrict airflow and sometimes trap pockets of polluted air at ground level.	
Water			
Reduce levels of water pollution? Improve the physical state of the water environment? Protect and improve surface, groundwater and coastal water quality? Enhance the function of SuDS and flood management schemes? Result in positive changes to groundwater levels? Contribute towards RMBP enhancement measures	++	Positive effects are likely to result from the promotion of healthy, diverse woodlands which can stabilise soil, reduce diffuse pollution, and slow surface flow thereby reducing flooding. However, forestry can have localised, short term negative effects on the water environment, notably through siltation during planting or other forestry operations. Particular care should be taken when planting or managing woodland near the River Dee which is designated as an SAC for species such as the Freshwater pearl mussel which requires water with a low silt loading. Flood risk downstream of a forestry operation as a result of woody debris blocking culverts and bridges should be considered in the management plans for areas of woodland. Refer to the relevant RMBP for specific measures to ensure good practice	Ensure that all planting is undertaken following the UKFS which has a section on Forests and Water. Include more references and links to Forestry Commission documents for specific advice on forestry and the water environment in the TWS.
Soil			
Avoid loss of carbon rich soils as defined on SNH's Carbon and Peatland map? Reduce soil loss, erosion and landslides? Minimise conflict with existing land use patterns?	++	There should be an overall positive effect on soil if good practice is followed; ensure that all planting is undertaken following the UKFS which has a section on Forests and Soil. The spatial map in the TWS deems areas with a peat depth >50cm as *unsuitable* for planting. Work in the vicinity of the River Dee SAC will have to ensure sediment contamination is minimised.	The potential adverse effects of trees on carbon rich soils will be avoided by identifying their presence during the planning phase of a woodland project. This should be done by checking the SNH Carbon and Peatland Map 2016 and by surveys carried out at site level.

Will the TWS…	Score	Comments	Mitigation/Enhancement
Biodiversity, flora, fauna			
Protect and enhance priority species, habitats and sites designated for their nature conservation value? Protect trees important for wildlife, including veteran trees, Ancient Woodlands/Scottish Semi-Natural Woodland Inventory sites? Help to reverse and offset the decline of biodiversity? Avoid habitat fragmentation and lead to enhanced habitat connectivity? Promote the importance of woodlands and trees for biodiversity? Avoid disturbance and damage to wildlife? Ensure that existing woodlands are managed to protect and enhance conservation objectives? Protect trees and woodlands against herbivore impacts?	++	With careful planning tree and woodland planting should have multiple benefits for the environment and especially for the biodiversity of an area. Trees and associated vegetation provide habitat and shelter for a wide range of species in urban areas and in new built development. The Strategy promotes a robust site-based assessment in all cases of woodland planting and provides a spatial map for guidance at the strategic scale. Currently there is one Natura site (River Dee SAC), four SSSIs and 45 Local Nature Conservation Sites within the ACC area. Details on internationally and nationally designated sites are held on the SNH Natural Spaces website and for the LNCS the ACC website has a full list with maps and features. As planning policy makes clear there are also areas of value outside the designated sites which could link and protect areas of interest. Scottish Forestry and SNH provide guidance on deer management and ACC has a city-wide Deer Management Plan.	Ensure that all planting is undertaken following the UKFS which has a section on Forests and Biodiversity. The potential adverse effects of trees on biodiversity will be minimised as protected natural heritage sites are identified as *sensitive* to new woodland development on the spatial map. Detailed tree and woodland planting and management should be informed by relevant guidance from SNH. This should be done by making it easy to find out information about protected sites (Natura, National and Local sites) within the ACC area. Desk studies prior to locating and designing new woodlands would ensure that any potential impact was not realised.
Landscape			
Avoid or minimise adverse visual impacts or impacts on setting of the city? Avoid adverse effects on protected/designated landscapes? Avoid adverse effects on key viewpoints and gateways?	+	Public perception of forestry can be mixed currently, although non-commercial woodlands tend to be widely valued. The TWS promotes expansion in woodland cover in a way which takes account of the potential benefits and impacts on landscape, it also promotes forestry practice with a greater diversity of tree species and management practice. Thus, it does promote change, which can in itself be controversial, but it promotes change in the context of a beneficial contribution to landscape.	Ensure that all planting is undertaken in compliance with the UKFS which includes specific guidance on Forests and Landscape.

Will the TWS...	Score	Comments	Mitigation/Enhancement
Effectively protect key tree and woodland features from inappropriate removal, loss or damage?		Integrating trees and woodlands into built development and urban areas can improve townscapes and help them integrate into the landscape. Overall the strategy promotes a robust site-based assessment in all cases of new woodland creation which should include consideration of landscape issues. The mapping incorporates Gardens and Designed Landscapes and identifies them as sensitive to inappropriate woodland planting.	
Cultural heritage			
Avoid adverse effects on, and conserve and enhance, protected historic and archaeological sites and features? Protect the setting of the historic environment and historic features, whether protected or not?	+	Being a strategy the TWS will encourage a holistic approach to tree and woodland planting which takes into account cultural heritage during the planning stage. Care should be taken with enhancement in relation to scheduled monuments in particular. The spatial map in the TWS deems Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Scheduled Monuments as *sensitive* to planting.	Ensure that all planting is undertaken following the UKFS which has guidelines on Forests and the Historic Environment.
Population			
Encourage all sectors of society to enjoy trees and woodland? Help provide better connected green spaces and green networks that are multi-functional? Provide opportunities for jobs, careers and economic diversity in the city? Enhance the city to encourage inward investment?	+	The Aberdeen Green Space Network is a strategic network connecting various habitats and species, urban and rural green spaces to each other and the communities around them. It offers a wide range of social, health economic and environmental benefits. Any planting should consult the maps on the ACC website to ensure that it does not conflict with existing routes.	Planning, which the TWS will ensure, is essential to optimising the benefits of any planting undertaken in the ACC area.
Human Health			
Provide opportunities for improved personal and community health and well-being?	++	There is the potential for beneficial effects on human health and wellbeing to arise through the increased provision of accessible woodland space which can be used for recreational	Ensure that all planting is undertaken following the UKFS which has a section on Forests and People.

Will the TWS...	Score	Comments	Mitigation/Enhancement
Retain and improve quality, quantity and connectivity of publicly accessible open space? Support and encourage recreation and active travel by providing a more attractive outdoor environment for people? Maintain links between areas and recreational sites, increasing opportunities for healthy outdoor activities?		purposes and can enhance the environmental quality of urban areas in particular. Improving air quality will have a knock-on effect in terms of reducing the likelihood of air quality-related adverse health effects. Access to outdoor spaces and opportunities to connect with the natural environment can have both physical and mental benefits for wellbeing and can also provide a sense of identity and place. This interaction with woodlands can increase the population's awareness of the goods that are derived from it and increase awareness of the importance of maintaining good ecosystem health. This can have an indirect yet major positive effect over the long term in preserving all aspects of the environment.	Links are strong between ACC Countryside Services and the City's health sector.
Material assets			
Maintain and support a sustainable forestry industry? Maximise the use of locally sourced timber? Support renewable energy generation? Manage trees and woodlands so that they do not become a liability? Facilitate maintenance of the rural road network to enable efficient timber transport?	++	The economic value of the trees and woodland in ACC area needs to be quantified to be able to advocate their contribution to the local economy and monitor any change meaningfully. The sustainability of the Granite City Forest will be dependent on the forestry sector as a whole being economically viable in the long term. The rural road network has been taken into account in the TWS, with respect to the importance of maintaining suitable infrastructure to facilitate the movement of timber traffic to markets.	A well established system for valuing trees is i-Tree Eco. Include defined and agreed actions for stakeholders in the TWS.

Overall, the assessment showed very positive or positive impacts for the TWS on the SEA topics assessed. Some actions had the potential to have negative impacts but these were generally mitigated through the adherence to established guidance such as the UKFS which is well used in the forestry industry. No significant negative impacts were identified.

The planning and framework, which the TWS will ensure, will increase the planting and management of trees and woodland in the ACC area.

It is difficult to quantify the impacts and to compare the scores between topics.

4.4   Appropriate Assessment

Aberdeenshire Council has undertaken a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Natura sites within its boundary. The two Natura sites (River Dee SAC and proposed extension to the Ythan Estuary SAC) within ACC also exist in Aberdeenshire and were considered in the HRA which was done in 2016. An HRA has been undertaken for the sites in ACC which updates the Aberdeenshire document.

5   Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

5.1   Proposed Mitigation Measures

There are no significant adverse effects anticipated as a result of the implementation of the TWS. Table 4.2 outlines measures which will mitigate any potential negative impacts. Potential minor negative impacts will be offset by other indicators and established forestry guidance and processes such as EIA and the general planning system when specific projects come forward.

The UKFS sets out the criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests and woodlands in the UK therefore avoiding the potential environmental problems that can arise through poor forestry practice.

The majority of impacts can be reduced by good planning which must include a review of baseline data for the proposed planting site and compliance with existing PPS. The TWS should make it clear that the baseline features of proposed sites must be established to avoid any unintentional impacts. It should be noted that the map in the TWS is strategic and does not replace research into individual sites.

5.2   Monitoring Framework

No significant negative effects have been predicted during the SEA process, but it is important that the **actual** effects of the TWS are monitored in relation to baseline information in order to identify any unexpected adverse effects and undertake corrective action. Many of the topics will be influenced more significantly by other factors apart from the TWS.

The TWS contains an Action Plan with quantifiable performance indicators for the implementation of the objectives. Progress through the Action Plan will enable ACC to evaluate the TWS and formulate amendments for the quinquennial review. The following are suggested as potential metrics for monitoring the effectiveness of the TWS:

THEME 1 – Stewardship and Expansion

- % of ACC-owned woodland covered by up to date Management Plans
- % ACC-owned woodlands certified under the UKWAS

- % ACC-owned individual trees and woodland surveyed using National Tree Map (or equivalent) and data formally captured, maintained and updated
- No. of hectares UKFS compliant new woodland planted within Aberdeen City
- Annual Deer Management Reports
- No. of hectares of compensatory woodland planted v. area of woodland removed as part of agreed development

THEME 2 – Climate Change

- No. of hectares of new woodland certified against the Woodland Carbon Code
- No. of Climate Change Parks established and maintained in Aberdeen City
- No. of hectares of new woodland creation in Aberdeen meeting requirements of UKFS

THEME 3 – Economic Value

- iTreeEco survey completed for Aberdeen City
- % new woodland creation that incorporate timber production as a management objective
- Active participation in membership of the Grampian Forestry Forum
- Agreed Route map for timber transport within Aberdeen City maintained
- Active membership of the Grampian Timber Transport Group

THEME 4 – People, Health and Communities

- No. of woodland-related community volunteering initiatives implemented
- No. of *Branching Out* events held
- No. of woodland-based *Health Walks* carried out
- Length of Core Path network linkages with woodlands
- No. of Forest School programmes carried out

THEME 5 – Cultural Heritage

- No of red squirrel conservation projects implemented
- No. of hectares of native woodlands created/restored
- No. of PAWS brought back into native condition

5.3   Limitations and Difficulties in the assessment

It is difficult to quantify the effects of a strategy which will have effects on so many aspects of the environment and many other strategies will be affecting the same features.

5.4   Next Steps

The Draft ER and Draft TWS are put out for consultation to the CA via the SEA Gateway and to the public via newspaper and online publication by ACC. The CA approved the 6 week consultation period proposed by ACC.

Following the consultation period the responses will be collated and reviewed (2 weeks) and the TWS will be amended (4 weeks).

Publication of finalised TWS and ER (2 weeks with publisher etc).

5.5   Proposed Consultation Timescale and Anticipated Milestones

In accordance with the requirements of the Section 17 of the 2005 Act the findings of this ER and the responses acquired during the consultation period from the public and CA will be taken into account when finalising the TWS. A Post Adoption Statement which outlines how this ER and the consultation responses informed the development of the strategy will be prepared and submitted to the SEA Gateway.

Milestone	Timeframe
Publication of TWS and ER for consultation	
Close of Consultation Period	6 weeks after publication
Review of consultation responses	2 weeks
Finalise ER and TWS	4 weeks
Publication of Final ER and TWS	
Submission of Post Adoption Statement to SEA Gateway	

We would welcome your comments on this ER which was published for consultation on ** 2019; comments are requested by ** 2019 (6 weeks later). Details of how to comment can be found on: ACC website link or by contacting: Steven Shaw, Environmental Manager, Environmental Services, Altens East Recycling and Resource Facility, Hareness Place, ABERDEEN AB12 3GX
STEVENS@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1: Scoping Report Comments Table

Appendix 2: Relationship with other PPS

Appendix 1: Scoping Report Comments Table

Consultation Authority Comment	Response
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	
The list of PPS is comprehensive and clear. We recommend the following additions: The identification of priority woodlands for red squirrel conservation in North and Central Scotland Forest Habitat Networks Scotland (Grampian) Report	PPSs added to list (Appendix 2)
We welcome cognisance of Aberdeenshire Council's Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2017 and encourage trans-boundary effects and connections to be explored in the assessment.	Noted
Table 5.2: recommend the addition of continued herbivore pressure on woodland without the TWS.	Included in Table 3.2 in the ER
The Strategy also has a potentially important contribution to make to quality of place both for residents and visitors, for example use of community woodland and street trees.	Noted
Table 5.3 lists the environmental issues for each SEA topic. This section is quite generic and we suggest it is revised where possible to highlight issues specific to Aberdeen.	Links in Table 3.1 will lead users to specific information with ease
Note that increased access and recreation may impact on habitats and species, for example through disturbance and trampling.	Noted
We support the reference to the Strategy's role in deer management. This is a significant issue for delivery of the strategy, and we recommend the assessment explicitly records the significant environmental effects.	Noted and included
We recommend mention of the risk of sediment contamination in terms of forestry practices (especially thinning and felling) and other developments on the River Dee SAC, with potential threats to qualifying species such as freshwater pearl mussels.	Noted and included
Add loss/decline of street trees and possible role of the strategy to ensure protection/maintenance of existing resource and new street tree planting.	Noted and included
We agree with the scoping in of the SEA issues.	Noted
The proposed framework for assessing the strategy's alternatives, vision, themes, objectives and strategy maps environmental effects is comprehensive and clear. We support the structure of Table 6.2 and welcome the populated example for climatic factors.	Minor modifications have been made to the framework to minimise repetition
Several separate assessment questions are asked under each SEA topic. These are currently grouped together in the assessment commentary and mitigation. However, assessment of each question would result in a clearer assessment process and more specific mitigation.	The order of the questions has been followed in the comments columns. The table would become unwieldy if this suggestion was adopted

Consultation Authority Comment	Response
Biodiversity, flora and fauna: Add questions "Ensure that existing woodlands are managed to protect and enhance their conservation objectives" and "Protect trees and woodlands against herbivore impacts."	Included Table 4.2 in the ER
Soil: Amend "Avoid or minimise the loss of carbon rich soils" to "Avoid loss of carbon rich soils as defined on SNH's Carbon and Peatland Map."	Included Table 4.2 in the ER
Population: Amend "Meet the demand for more, better and accessible greenspace" to "Help provide better connected green spaces and green networks that are multi-functional"	Included Table 4.2 in the ER
6.4 The cumulative effect framework is welcomed.	Each of the themes was considered individually in relation to each of the topics and then the cumulative scores put in the assessment framework (Table 4.2)
6.5 Habitats Regulations Appraisal We support the consideration of HRA in the light of the issues identified and given the nature of the River Dee SAC. We refer to the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2016 and recommend a similar approach. We will be pleased to advise on the methodology in due course.	The HRA for Aberdeenshire is applicable to the ACC area as it includes the River Dee SAC. Following a discussion with SNH an HRA was undertaken for ACC based on the Aberdeenshire one
6.7 Monitoring We support the commitment to monitoring the environmental effects of the strategy	Metrics for monitoring the TWS are suggested
8.2 Environmental Baseline Appendices We welcome the intent to revise this baseline information and will be pleased to advise further	Location of baseline data sources noted
Pg 142 Peat soils: we recommend information for carbon rich soils (class, area in Aberdeen etc.) is presented for Aberdeen in accordance with SNH's carbon and peatland map.	Noted
Pg 143 Soil erosion: recognition that poor land management practices resulting in erosion/sedimentation (including forestry) can have significant adverse effects – eg. on the River Dee SAC.	Noted and included in ER
Appendix 8.2.4 (pg 145): we recommend the specific natural heritage designations and extent/condition is also included.	Noted. Link to the information is included in the Table 3.1
Pg 148: we recommend the Ancient Woodland Inventory is included including the ha in each type (eg. long established plantation woodland). Include baseline on extent/type/distribution of existing woodland eg. ha/% conif, ha/% br leaved	AWI data are dated compared with Native Woodland Survey of Scotland
We recommend providing a baseline position for the development of Integrated Habitat Networks/Forest Habitat Networks and green networks in the Council area.	Useful definition and metric to be decided upon
Pg 173 Green access routes: identify routes including active travel routes and key recreational assets. This could be provided under 'Population/human health.'	Green Space Network shown on ACC website

Consultation Authority Comment	Response
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	
Relationship with other Plans, Policies and Strategies (PPS) We are pleased to note that Table 5.1 presents a comprehensive list of other relevant plans, polices and strategies which the Tree and Woodland Strategy (here after referred to as the T&WS) is related to. However the following plans (see below) are out of date and should be updated and reflected in the Environmental Report.	Noted
PAN 69 (Flood Risk) has been replaced with online planning advice on flood risk therefore we ask that this is updated in the Environmental Report.	Noted (Appendix 2)
Table 5.1 under National, the section on 'water' outlines the 'River Basin Management Plan for Scotland (2009)'. Please note that the second RBMP for the Scotland River Basin Plans (2015 to 2027) has now been published. Please access this information here and update this in the ER.	Noted (Appendix 2)
1.2 It should be noted that any new bridges or culverts should be designed to convey the 1 in 200 year flow plus an appropriate allowance for freeboard. We ask that Engineering in the Water Environment: Good Practice Guide, River Crossings' guidance which contains further advice on watercourse crossing design is included in the list of plans, policies and strategies in Table 5.1.	Noted (Appendix 2)
1.3 Some of the PPS included have themselves been subject to SEA. Where this is the case you may find it useful to prepare a summary of the key SEA findings that may be relevant to the T&WS. This may assist you with data sources and environmental baseline information and also ensure the current SEA picks up environmental issues or mitigation actions which may have been identified elsewhere.	Noted. The SEAs for the most relevant documents have been referred to eg. Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019 – 29 SEA ER and other woodland strategy ERs
Baseline information 2.1 SEPA holds significant amounts of environmental data which may be of interest to you in preparing the environmental baseline, identifying environmental problems, and summarising the likely changes to the environment in the absence of the PPS, all of which are required for the assessment. Many of these data are now readily available on SEPA's website.	Noted and referred to in Table 3.1
2.2 Additional local information may also be available from our Access to Information Unit at our Corporate Office.	Noted
3. Environmental Problems 3.1 We consider that the environmental problems described generally highlight the main issues of relevance for the SEA topics within our remit.	Noted

Consultation Authority Comment	Response
3.2 We consider that in addition to the environmental problems described the following issues are also of relevance to this assessment. The SEA of the T&WS should consider these issues and solutions that the strategy will deliver to address them.	Noted
Air quality - It should be noted that the relationship between trees and air pollution is complex. Table 5.3 states that a possible role of the T&WS will be to "Promote the role of trees in built areas, along busy routes, and within green spaces as a means to improve air quality". Trees and other vegetation can restrict airflow, preventing pollution from being diluted by currents of cleaner air. Planting trees with thick canopies along busy roadsides can act like a roof, trapping pockets of polluted air at ground level.	Noted and included in the ER UK Forestry Guidelines highlighted
Flood Risk – Table 5.3 states that the T&WS would "Promote land use change which reduces flood risk and minimises flood impacts on land use and communities." It should be noted that future expansion or change in the areas of woodland in the Aberdeen area must take into consideration the flood risk to downstream receptors from forestry operations such as planting and felling and woody debris deposition. Any measures proposed in the Strategy should consider the impact on flows, sediment transport, capacity of culverts and potential blockage of culverts and bridges downstream. It should also consider the possibility of woody debris entering watercourses.	Noted and included in the ER UK Forestry Guidelines highlighted
4. Alternatives 4.1 We note that the reasonable alternatives considered are listed in Table 4.2. We highlight that if you have considered different vision statements, strategies, objectives or mapping proposals then these also represent reasonable alternative and should be assessed.	Noted
6.1 We agree that in this instance all environmental topics in Table 6.1 should be scoped into the assessment.	Noted
6. Methodology for assessing environmental effects 6.1 We are content with the proposed detailed assessment matrix and particularly welcome the commentary box (in column 5 of Table 6.2) which should be utilised to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results.	Commentary in column 3 of Table 4.2
7. Mitigation and enhancement 7.1 We are pleased to note that Table 6.4 outlines a framework for mitigation and are content with the proposed approach.	Noted
8. Monitoring 8.1 Although not specifically required at this stage, monitoring is a requirement of the Act and early consideration should be given to a monitoring approach particularly in the	Metrics are suggested in Section 5.2 of the ER for monitoring of the effectiveness of the TWS

Consultation Authority Comment	Response
choice of indicators. We are therefore pleased to note in Section 6.7 and Table 6.5 that ACC will prepare/produce a monitoring report to monitor the significant effects of the implementation plan. It would be helpful if this is included in the ER.	
9. Consultation period 9.1 We are satisfied with the proposal for a six week consultation period for the ER	Noted
10. Outcomes of the Scoping exercise 10.1 We would find it helpful if the ER included a summary of the scoping outcomes and how comments from the Consultation Authorities were taken into account.	Noted
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	
We note that the historic environment has been scoped into the assessment and on the basis of the information provided, we are content with this approach and are satisfied with the scope and level of detail proposed for the assessment, subject to the detailed comments provided below.	Noted
The methodology outlined for the assessment is well considered and the baseline against which to test the options available to the strategy is appropriate in terms of the historic environment. In particular we welcome that the assessment questions have been specifically tailored to address the likely pressures on the historic environment as a result of the strategy. This should enable the assessment to more accurately reflect any issues arising through the testing of the aims and objectives of the strategy and their relationship with the historic environment.	Noted
As a point of detail it should be remembered that enhancement may not always be the most appropriate action for the historic environment, particularly in relation to scheduled monuments.	Noted
The approach for the mitigation of any environmental effects as a result of the implementation of the strategy is welcomed and it should be remembered that consideration should also be given to measures for the enhancement of positive effects.	Noted
In terms of monitoring the predicted environmental effects of the strategy we welcome the early consideration given for this important area. As you will be aware, the manner in which significant effects will be monitored should be driven by the nature of the effects identified and in light of this the suggested framework should prove a useful tool in this regard.	Noted

Appendix 2: Relationship with other PPS

Name of PPS	Main requirement of PPS	Implication of the PPS on the TWS
INTERNATIONAL		
Climate Change		
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1997 and 2015)	International environmental treaty which provides a framework for binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. It calls for action to conserve and enhance sinks of greenhouse gases including forests.	The TWS will contribute to Aberdeen in meeting its commitments under these conventions.
The Second European Climate Change Programme	Identifies and develops all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to explore cost effective options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	The TWS will contribute to Aberdeen in meeting its commitments under this programme.
EU Adaptation Strategy 2013	The Adaption Strategy sets out a framework and mechanisms for making Europe more climate-resilient. Three key objectives: promoting action by Member States; promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors; and promoting better informed decision making.	The TWS will provide information for better informed decision making.
Air Quality		
EU Air Quality Directives 2008/50/EC and 2016/2284 Clean Air Programme for Europe (2013)	Sets air quality standards for ground-level ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals and a number of other pollutants. Sets National Emission Ceilings (NEC) for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and ammonia. Sets air quality objectives	The TWS will not result in a deterioration of air quality.
Water		
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	Safeguards the sustainable use of surface water; transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and addresses groundwater pollution, flooding and droughts and River Basin Management Planning. Contains provisions to prevent deterioration in the status of surface water and groundwater bodies.	The TWS will comply with this Directive through observance of measures outlined in the UKFS and the UKFS's Water Guidelines.
Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC	Concerns water pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources.	The TWS will comply with this Directive through observance of measures outlined in the UKFS UKFS and the UKFS's Water Guidelines.

Name of PPS	Main requirement of PPS	Implication of the PPS on the TWS
Biodiversity		
Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	Requires national governments to specify areas for the protections of habitats, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).	There is one SAC in the ACC area – River Dee SAC. Special precautions are outlined in the UKFS to be followed when planting or felling in the vicinity of a SAC and a HRA has been carried out as part of the TWS process.
Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	Protects wild birds and their habitats through a network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	There are no SPAs and one proposed extension to an existing SPA (Ythan Estuary) in the ACC area.
European Biodiversity Strategy 2020	Promotes the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	Measures in the TWS will contribute to the delivery of this strategy.
Landscape		
European Landscape Convention 2000	Promotes the protection, management and planning of all landscapes, including natural, managed, urban and peri-urban areas.	The TWS will comply with this convention through observance of measures outlined in the UKFS.
Waste		
Taking Sustainable Use of Resources Forward: A Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste (2005)	Describes the ways in which waste management can be improved; limiting the production of waste and promoting the recycling, reuse and recovery of waste. Gives context to national legislation and strategy on waste and recycling.	The TWS should encourage a life-cycle approach to waste arising from tree and woodland management with the aim of reducing the amount of waste produced as distinct from wood co-products.
Noise		
European Noise Directive 2002/49/EC	Relates to the assessment and management of environmental noise.	The TWS should contribute to the reduction of environmental noise.
NATIONAL		
Cross-Sectoral		
The Planning (Scotland) Act 2006	Promotes an inclusive and efficient planning system to improve community involvement, support the economy, and help it to grow in a sustainable way.	The TWS will recognise the importance the planning system has for protecting and enhancing the natural environment. It should encourage community involvement and influence the next Aberdeen LDP and future planning decisions to ensure that tree and woodland priorities are considered.
Town & Country Planning Act (as amended) 1967 / Circular 1/2011 Tree Preservation Orders	Provides for the protection of trees in Conservation Areas and through Tree Preservation Orders. The Act places a duty on planning authorities to ensure that, whenever appropriate, planning permissions make adequate provision for the preservation or planting of trees.	The TWS should help to deliver improved tree protection through a range of actions including promoting the value of trees to society and protecting trees from the impacts of land-use change and development.

Name of PPS	Main requirement of PPS	Implication of the PPS on the TWS
National Planning Framework for Scotland 3 (2014) (NPF3)	The Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. The NPF3 strongly supports renewable energy developments, the Green Network and active travel as constituents to enhance health and wellbeing. It aims to deliver 100,000ha of new woodland over the next 10 years to ensure Scotland meets its emissions reduction targets and wider land use objectives. Promotes the development of City Regions; facilitates the regeneration of socially disadvantaged areas; including a number of National Developments, two of which are in Aberdeen; encourages environmental stewardship.	The TWS will facilitate the delivery of sustainable woodland management and new woodland creation in appropriate locations within the ACC area. The TWS takes account of the spatial and environmental issues set out in NPF3. The TWS supports the strategic objectives for a low waste, low carbon future, with enhanced Green Networks.
Scottish Planning Policy 2014 (SPP)	Identifies the Scottish Government's central purpose at sustainable economic growth. SPP sets out the main purpose and tasks of the planning system and national policies across all policy sectors. Highlights the role of planning in achieving opportunities to enhance health and wellbeing, biodiversity, landscape, green space networks and cultural heritage. Includes reference to tree works in Conservation Areas (para 144); the principle of protecting woodland and trees for biodiversity (para 194 & 216); the control of woodland removal (para 218); the role of trees and woodlands in networks and green infrastructure (para 217, 222). Includes: • presumption in favour of protection of soils and consideration of the implications of development for soil quality and effects on carbon dioxide emissions. • protection and improvement of the water environment, avoiding flood risk and reducing the vulnerability of existing and future development to flooding.	The TWS will support and deliver policy objectives contained in the SPP.
Getting the best from our land: A land use strategy for Scotland 2016 - 21	Sets a framework for sustainable land use to guide policy and decision making. It recognises the importance of ecosystem functions and services in land use strategy. Where land is highly suitable for a primary use (eg. food production, flood	The TWS aims to: • promote sustainable development and use of land, addressing the competing demands on the diminishing resource; • optimise the public benefits delivered by the natural environment and natural processes; and,

Name of PPS	Main requirement of PPS	Implication of the PPS on the TWS
	management or carbon storage) this value should be recognised in decision making.	• protect natural assets and resources for future generations.
Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2019	This Strategy provides an overview of contemporary Scottish forestry and the Scottish Government's 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands. It places forestry at the heart of government helping to deliver the aims of the National Performance Framework and supporting Scotland's Land use Strategy.	The Scottish Government's new forestry strategy provides the TWS with the opportunity to set out its own vision and strategic objectives within the context of a local authority-level interpretation of the national vision for the role of trees, woodlands and forestry in society.
Scotland's National Transport Strategy (2006)	Sets out a long-term vision for transport, identifies reduction of emissions, improved quality, accessibility and affordable as key aims.	The TWS seeks to integrate with the aims of this strategy. By enhancing the built and open space environment, it encourages active travel and assists in the reduction of emissions.
Scotland's Economic Strategy (2007)	Identifies strategic priorities critical to achieving sustainable economic growth.	The TWS has a theme which focusses on the economic value of trees and woodland in the ACC area and will support this Strategy.
Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	Highlights the need to build a sustainable future taking account of pubic well-being (eg. quality of life, food, economic opportunities), travel, natural resources and waste.	The TWS has sustainability, both in terms of economics and biodiversity at its core.
Natural Resource Productivity (2009)	Sets out to optimise the sustainable use of our natural resources to deliver the maximum economic and public benefit	The TWS aims to promote sustainable forest development for Scotland optimising public benefits delivered by the natural environment and protecting natural assets for future generations.
Building a Better Scotland Infrastructure Investment Plan: Investing in the Future of Scotland (2005)	Sets out the delivery plan for achieving significant investment in transport, education, health, water, waste management, sports, business, flood prevention and regeneration programs in Scotland.	The TWS has taken into account and will contribute to most of these objectives.
Air and Climate Change		
The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)	Provides a clear, long-term vision for improving air quality in the UK in line with the Environment Act 1995 setting out associated air quality objectives and policy options	The TWS should contribute to improvement of local air quality.
Cleaner Air for Scotland – The Road to a Healthier Future (2015)	Sets out proposals to further reduce air pollution to protect human health and comply with European and Scottish legal requirements relating to air quality.	The TWS has been guided by these proposals and will contribute to the improvement of local air quality with a knock-on improvement in human health.
Climate Change Act 2008	Sets UK targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions	The TWS takes note of this Act.

Name of PPS	Main requirement of PPS	Implication of the PPS on the TWS
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Creates a statutory framework and targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The Act places duties on public bodies to contribute to the delivery of the targets set in the Act in exercising its functions.	The TWS will contribute to the Council's duties and targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and to the Council's programme of adaptation to climate change.
Scottish Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)	Sets out high level measures required to meet Scotland's statutory climate change targets to 2020 and beyond.	The TWS includes measures to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases and considers methods of adaptation, diversification and mitigation.
Low Carbon Scotland; Meeting our Emissions Reduction Targets 2013-2027 (RPP2)	The Scottish Government's second report on proposals and policies (RPP2) for meeting its climate change targets. It sets out how Scotland can deliver its statutory annual targets for the period 2013–2027 through the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.	The TWS will contribute to greenhouse gas emissions reduction.
A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010)	Sets out the Scottish Government's plans to move towards a low carbon economy in Scotland.	The TWS has a theme which promotes sustainable economic development in relation to trees and woodland.
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan 2009	Five point plan to tackle climate change: Includes objectives for the farming sector, including encouraging private funding for woodland creation.	The TWS will help to drive the expansion of woodland whilst avoiding planting on carbon-rich soils.
Climate Change Plan 2018 - 2032	Sets out the Scottish Government's decarbonisation plans to 2032.	The TWS will directly support the implementation of the Plan through delivering sustainable woodland creation and encouraging the increased use of wood products in construction.
Tomorrow's Climate, Today's Challenge: UK Climate Change Programme (2006)	Sets out measures to reduce emissions in every sector of the economy, through a variety of different actions, including land use management.	The TWS supports policy aimed at sustainable forest management, and includes objectives and actions which will lead to increased levels of carbon sequestration through tree and woodland planting.
Climate Ready Scotland; the Scottish Adaptation programme	Recognises that well-structured and diverse forests can better withstand change and extreme events. Local authorities are required to take actions under flooding, deliver green networks, embed adaptation considerations into land use planning decisions. Other actions include improving the condition and connectivity of native woodlands; promote tree health; and creating resilient forests.	The TWS contributes to the Council's requirements to strengthen and deliver green networks, to deliver actions to cool the urban environment to encourage cycling and walking. Woodland connectivity mapping already prepared can be used to influence woodland expansion priorities. All these have been taken into account in the TWS.

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2020 Route map for Renewable Energy in Scotland (2013) and Scottish Government Renewable Energy Action Plan	Provides the national strategy for the growth of the renewable energy generation in Scotland. Focusses on renewable energy sector and identifies key challenges and actions.	The TWS supports renewable energy development, and will increase the availability of woodfuel in line with other TWS objectives.
Agri-renewables Strategy for Scotland 2014	Relates to the 2020 Routemap and includes reference to use of farm woodlands for woodfuel.	The TWS supports the production of woodfuel in appropriate locations.
Forestry Commission Scotland: Climate Change Programme 2013	The programme describes climate change predictions and explains the role that forestry has in relation to mitigating the effects of, and adapting to, climate change.	The TWS will help with the delivery of the Forestry and Land Scotland's programme in the ACC area.
Water		
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	Ensures that all human activity that can have a harmful impact on water is controlled.	The TWS will comply with this Act through observance of measures outlined in the UKFS. Opportunities to enhance water quality will also be explored in the TWS.
The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 and The Water Environment (Miscellaneous) (Scotland) Regulations 2017	Applies regulatory controls over activities which may affect Scotland's water environment including rivers, lochs, estuaries, coastal waters, groundwater and GWDTEs. Integrates the control of pollution, abstractions, dams and engineering activities in the water environment.	The TWS supports the implementation of these regulations through the promotion of the UKFS which includes a specific guideline on Forests and Water. Opportunities to enhance the water environment are captured in the strategy objectives and actions.
The Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008	Controls the impact of diffuse pollution on the water environment from rural land use activities. Relevant activity is the construction of forestry tracks.	Opportunities for tree and woodland planting to reduce diffuse pollution effects should be captured in the TWS objectives and actions.
The Designation of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Scotland) Regulations 2014	Implements the requirements of the Nitrates Directive in Scotland to protect waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources.	Parts of ACC are within the Moray, Aberdeenshire / Banff and Buchan NVZ. The TWS will not result in actions which exacerbate nitrate pollution.
Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009	Creates a framework in which organisations involved in flood risk management can co-ordinate actions to deliver sustainable and modern approaches to flood risk management.	The TWS should not create flood risks and should actively promote sustainable flood risk management through appropriately sited tree and woodland planting and subsequent management.
The river basin management plan for Scotland (2015 - 2027)	A requirement of the Water Framework Directive, setting out the actions required within each river basin to achieve set environmental quality objectives. This document builds on the 2009 document and sets revised objectives.	The TWS will support and help deliver the objectives for River Basin Management Plans for the area (Rivers Dee and Don)

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SEPA Groundwater Protection Policy for Scotland: Environmental Policy (2003)	Aims to provide a sustainable future for Scotland's groundwater resources by protecting legitimate uses of groundwater.	The TWS should not adversely affect groundwater supplies.
SEPA indicative Flood Maps (2014)	Provides maps indicating potential flood extents.	The TWS should protect features which reduce the impact of flooding.
SEPA Engineering in the Water Environment, Good Practice Guides	Good practice guides produced by SEPA to minimise harm to the water environment while a range of engineering works are undertaken.	Guidance which should be accessed during forestry works in close proximity to watercourses.
Soil		
The Scottish Soil Framework (2009)	Promote the sustainable management and protection of soils consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs of Scotland. Formally acknowledges the important services soils provide to society; recognises that climate change and loss of organic matter are the most significant threats to Scottish soils.	The TWS should promote the sustainable management of soils and comply with UKFS guidelines with regard to soil. .
Scotland's National Peatland Plan: Working for our future (2015)	Highlights the importance of Scotland's peatlands. It draws attention to the poor state of large areas, and proposes building on existing initiatives to secure their sustainable use, management and restoration.	The TWS will avoid negative impacts on peatlands by using information on their location for avoidance of new planting.
Nature Conservation and Biodiversity		
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017	Consolidates all previous amendments to the Habitat Regulations 2010. Minor amendments to reflect changes in other related legislation and rectify omissions.	The TWS should not adversely affect habitats and species protected under the regulations, and should contribute positively to their conservation and enhancement.
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended in 2007)	These Regulations implement the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives in Scotland. The Regulations provide for the: • designation and protection of Natura sites (SACs, SPAs); • protection of European protected species from deliberate harm.	With knowledge of the location of protected areas it will be possible to avoid impacting them - specifically the River Dee SAC and proposed extension to the Ythan SPA.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Gives protection to listed species from disturbance, injury intentional destruction or sale.	The TWS should ensure that its objectives and outcomes lead to protection of wildlife from disturbance, injury and intentional destruction.
The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004	Sets out a series of measures, which are designed to conserve biodiversity. Places a general duty on all public bodies to further	The TWS should ensure that its objectives and outcomes promote, protect and enhance biodiversity and geological

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	the conservation of biodiversity and increases the protection for SSSIs.	diversity. It should be noted that unprotected areas are also important.
Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011	Makes a range of provision about wildlife and the natural environment. Incorporates and amends the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 into Scottish legislation.	This Act has been taken into account in the TWS and UKFS.
Code of Practice on Deer Management	Practical guidance for sustainable wild deer management to achieve the best combination of benefits for the economy, environment, people and communities. Includes the requirement to manage grazing and prevent damage to ecosystems, encourage woodland regeneration, and provide replacement habitats for woods which are sacrificed.	The TWS is compatible with the Code of Practice and supports deer management and the regeneration and protection of young woodlands.
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)	Provides badgers with statutory protection from taking, injury or killing, cruelty or interfering with badger setts	TWS should ensure that its implementation will not affect badgers and their setts.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Describes the UK biological resource, threats and opportunities for biodiversity, and presents national targets for action.	Biodiversity is taken into account in the TWS in Theme 5 and will take full account of UKFS Guidelines on Biodiversity.
Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) part 1 : Scottish Biodiversity It's in Your Hands (2004)	Aims to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland. Aims to halt and reverse the decline of species and habitats. Recognises the value of biodiversity to humans. It sets out a vision for the future health of Scotland's biodiversity to 2030. It highlights the need to: • look at the bigger picture: reconnecting and extending habitats and reducing barriers; • think in terms of landscapes and ecosystems delivered through strategic planning; and • encourage more engagement with people in biodiversity conservation.	The TWS needs to: • ensure the protection and conservation of biodiversity; • to assist in reversing the decline of important species and habitats; and • to maximise habitat linkage in both urban and rural areas and minimise further fragmentation.
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) Part 2: 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity: A Strategy for the Conservation and Enhancement of Biodiversity in Scotland (2013)	2020 Challenge provides greater detail and updates the 2004 document. Its sets out Scotland's response to the Aichi Targets (2010) set by the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (2010) and the European Union's Biodiversity Strategy for 2020 (2011). These call for a step change in efforts to halt the	The TWS takes account of the SBS at a local level in enhancing biodiversity through appropriate woodland planting and avoiding negative impacts on habitats and species.

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	loss of biodiversity and to restore the essential services that a healthy natural environment provides.	
Scotland's Biodiversity: a route map to 2020 (2015)	Sets out 6 steps to delivering benefits for biodiversity on the ground. Priorities are: • peatland, native woodland and freshwater restoration; • economic and social benefits from natural capital; • developing a natural health service; • good condition for protected areas; • conservation of priority species; and, • improving ecological connection.	The TWS has the potential to deliver on many of the priorities and has been guided by the route map.
Deer (Scotland) Act 1996	Provides regulatory powers and arrangements for deer management in Scotland.	The TWS will need to take account of deer management in relation to woodland and forest planting and management.
Forests and woodlands		
The UK Forestry Standard UKFS and associated guidelines on: • Biodiversity • Climate Change • Historic Environment • Landscape • People • Soil • Water	Outlines the context for forestry, sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring – including national and international reporting. It sets out requirements for forestry in relation to biodiversity, climate change, historic environment, landscape, people, soil and water.	The UKFS provides a framework of recommended environmental best practice within which the forestry actions carried out under the TWS will operate.
The Right Tree in the Right Place (2010)	This Scottish Government guidance provides advice to planning authorities on planning for forestry and woodlands and supports Scottish Ministers' desire to see a significant expansion in woodland cover, delivering multiple benefits to society. This guidance was issued by Forestry Commission Scotland and was prepared in close co-operation with the Directorate for the Built Environment, Scottish Natural Heritage and others. It informs the preparation of development plans and may be a material consideration in planning decisions.	The Right Tree in the Right Place (2010) provides best practice guidance and a nationally accepted framework for the preparation of the TWS and a key means of achieving consistency of approach with other local authority tree and woodland strategies.

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	Part 3 of this guidance replaces Circular 9/1999 on Indicative Forestry Strategies (IFSs)	
Rationale for Woodland Expansion (2009)	Explains the rationale for the expansion of woodland coverage in Scotland	The TWS has taken due account of the SG's rationale for the expansion of woodland cover in Scotland and the TWS's own proposals reflect this rationale at local level.
Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal	Provides policy direction for decisions on permanent woodland removal in Scotland and requirements for compensatory planting	Opportunity for the TWS to incorporate a strong commitment to recognition and compliance with the Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal as part of Aberdeen City Council's planning and development decision making process.
National Survey of Native Woodlands in Scotland	National level survey with analysis at local authority level providing information on current coverage and categorisation of the existing native woodland resource.	
Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory	Identifies woodland of that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750. There is a strong presumption against removing ancient semi-natural woodland or plantations on ancient woodland sites, amongst other types of woodland.	The inventory is now an old dataset and not readily applicable to Aberdeen City as the majority of ancient woodland identified in the 1750 and subsequent Roy Maps are now superseded by built up areas.
Landscape		
SNH Landscape Policy Framework: Policy Statement No 5/01	Sets out in detail SNH's approach to Scotland's landscapes. Sets out the importance and value of Scotland's landscapes; the need for shared responsibility for managing landscapes; an 'all landscapes' approach; promotes greater care of landscapes and a landscape character approach and special landscapes; recognises landscape change and the need to monitor it.	The TWS will need to recognise the importance of trees and woodlands in the landscape, as key features and characteristics, and the potential for significant landscape change from woodland expansion. The strategy should incorporate reference to consideration of designated landscapes and landscape character. The strategy should recognise the importance of trees and woodlands to people.
Cultural Heritage, Design and Regeneration		
Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014)	Sets out Scotland's vision of how our historic environment can be understood, valued, cared for, protected and make a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people.	The TWS should reflect, and help to deliver, the strategy vision and objectives. It will avoid adverse impacts on historic and archaeological sites and features by following the UKFS section on Forests and the Historic Environment
HES Policy Statement (2016)	Overarching policy statement for the historic environment, covering all types of designations and consents; it provides a	The TWS should reflect, and help to deliver, the vision statements in the Policy by helping to manage the historic environment in a sustainable way. The importance of trees as

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	framework to complement the Scottish Planning Policy series and other relevant policy documents.	key characteristics in designed landscapes and conservation areas is particularly relevant to the TWS.
The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1997	Prescribes the approach to be taken in planning for listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens.	The TWS should ensure that listed buildings, conservation areas and designed landscapes and gardens are not adversely affected by new woodland or tree planting and should include polices to encourage appropriate tree and woodland planting which enhances these areas.
Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland (2009) Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland (2010)	National policy statement on urban design and place-making in Scotland, with the aim of raising standards of urban and rural development. Sets out the qualities of successful places and strategies to achieve good design.	The TWS sets out how it will improve the protection and planting of trees and woodlands in relation to new development.
Scottish Executive (2006) People and Place: Regeneration Policy Statement	Sets out a forward-looking strategic framework and priorities for regeneration in Scotland encouraging proactive and integrated approaches.	The TWS takes account of changing regeneration activity in Aberdeen and promote the role of trees and woodlands in initiatives.
Scottish Government: Green Infrastructure, Design and Placemaking (2011)	Provides advice on incorporating principles and elements of green infrastructure into the design of new and existing developments.	The TWS promotes the appropriate planting and protection of trees and woodlands as key elements of green infrastructure as part of open space and regeneration projects.
Population and Health		
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and 2016	Establishes statutory public rights of access to land for recreational and other purposes. Local authority is required to draw up a Core Paths Plan and review it when appropriate.	The TWS objectives must lead to protection and enhancement of Core Paths and encourage access to land for recreational purposes.
Scottish Outdoor Access Code	Defines the right of responsible access to Scotland's outdoors.	The TWS supports and enhances opportunities for access to the outdoors.
Making the Links: Greenspace for a more successful and sustainable Scotland' (2009)	Sets out the key actions that are needed to ensure that greenspace delivers for people, communities and places across the whole of urban Scotland.	The TWS takes account of the actions required to deliver quality greenspace to shape better places and increase quality of life for those working, living in and visiting area.
Let's Make Scotland More Active: A Strategy for Physical Activity (2003)	Aims to increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland setting out targets to 2022.	The TWS helps deliver the strategy aims and makes clear the links between increased woodland cover and physical activity.
Community Empowerment Act 2015	Provides a framework to increase community empowerment and engagement. Targets regeneration and community participation.	The TWS seeks to engage communities in their environment. Community regeneration opportunities which include tree and woodland elements should be promoted. Urban orchards.

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Equalities Act 2010	Sets out a framework which prevents individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a more equal society.	The TWS should build the needs of people with protected characteristics into its strategic actions and aim for equal access across the city to trees and wooded areas.
Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 & 2005	Ensures that discrimination law covers all the activities of the public sector; and requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.	The TWS should build the needs of disabled persons into its strategic actions and make provision for equal access to trees and wooded areas.
Review of Public Health in Scotland – Scottish Government (2015)	Examines the role of public health systems and their contribution to improving health and reducing health inequalities. Identifies environmental factors as a key determinant to health.	The TWS will reflect the findings by setting objectives for improving human health and wellbeing by providing well-treed places which support and encourage healthy life styles and help to reduce pollution.
Equally Well	A public health strategy for Scotland with a focus on health inequalities. A key principle is reducing people's exposure to factors in the physical and social environment that cause stress, are damaging to health and wellbeing and lead to health inequalities.	The TWS takes cognisance of this strategy.
Good Places Better Health 2008	The Scottish Government's strategy on health and the environment. The approach recognises that the physical environment has a significant impact on the health of Scotland's children and that action is required to create health-nurturing environments for everyone.	The TWS will reflect the objectives by helping to improve human health and wellbeing by providing well-treed places which support and encourage healthy life styles and help to reduce pollution. The TWS can contribute to this strategy by leading to better protection of the natural environment for the benefit of future generations.
Creating Places – a policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland (2013)	Sets out the comprehensive value good design can deliver. The document contains an action plan that sets out the work that will be taken forward to achieve positive change.	The TWS should include good design as an objective and recognise the importance of well-designed tree and woodland planting in the urban and rural environment.
Noise		
Noise Regulations (Scotland) 2006	Requires the preparation of noise maps and action plans including air, road and rail traffic noise. Noise maps are available for Aberdeen.	The TWS can help to reduce noise by increasing the use of tree and woodland planting for noise diffusion and deflection. The TWS could identify priorities based on noise maps. (? – CP)
Food and Agriculture		
Scottish Rural Development Programme (2014 – 2020) SRDP	The key purpose of the SRDP is to help achieve sustainable economic growth in Scotland's rural areas. Its priorities include protecting and improving the natural environment and supporting agricultural and forestry businesses.	The TWS should support sustainable food production and forestry industry. It should address any conflicts between forestry, woodland and agricultural objectives.

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National Planning Advice & Guidance		
PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage	Provides advice on how development and the planning system can contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of Scotland's natural environment.	The TWS should contribute to the conservation, enhancement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural environment.
PAN 61: Planning & Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems	Describes how the planning system has a central role in implementing SUDS as part of the development process.	The TWS should consider the role of trees and woodlands in enhancing the function of SuDS.
PAN 65: Planning and Open Space	Provides advice on protecting existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces; sets out how local authorities can prepare open space strategies and provides examples of good practice.	The TWS should contribute to the quality and function of open space through introduction of trees and woodlands in appropriate locations.
PAN 69: Flood Risk (superseded by online planning advice)	States that natural and man-made features which help reduce the impact of flooding or flood risk should be identified and protected from development. Refer to SEPA website.	Flooding and the role of tree and woodland planting in the prevention of flooding is considered in the TWS.
PAN 75: Transport and Planning	Provides good practice guidance which creates greater awareness of how linkages between planning and transport can be managed.	The TWS should help to improve the quality of routes used for active travel. A system is in place which brings together the timber industry and local authorities to address timber transport issues (Timber Transport Forum Regional Groups).
PAN 76: New Residential Streets.	Aims at creating attractive, safe residential environments, which reflect the needs of people, rather than cars.	The TWS will contribute to the high standard design of streets by encouraging urban tree protection, management and planting
PAN 77: Designing safer places	Highlights the positive role that planning can play in helping to create attractive, well-managed environments which help to discourage antisocial and criminal behaviour.	The TWS should help to deliver safe spaces for people.
PAN 78: Inclusive Design	Seeks to deliver high standards of design in development and redevelopment projects; and widens the user group that an environment is designed for.	The TWS should promote high standard and the use of trees and woodlands as a key part of design of new developments.
PAN 83: Masterplanning	Encourages the design of high quality, sustainable environments and engagement of communities by applying agreed design principles. It includes identifying sensitive areas and site vegetation and designing in provision for open space.	The TWS will assist the masterplanning process by identifying principles for protection and enhancement of trees and woodlands on development sites.
Woody Biomass: Planning Advice Scottish Government	Sets out guidance on woody biomass energy plant applications, to deliver on renewable heat targets and to provide local economic and fuel security benefits. Recognises the difficulties associated with woodfuel supplies and transport implications.	The TWS will assist to secure local woodfuel supplies to support woody biomass energy proposals. Formal and informal Duthie Park heating initiatives already exist and could be expanded.

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Scottish Government Online Renewables Advice (Replaces PAN 45) (2011-2013)	Planning advice on different types of renewable technologies is e.g. wind turbines, hydro schemes, energy from waste and photovoltaic.	The TWS will seek to support renewable energy technologies as they relate to the woodland environment.
REGIONAL		
Cross sectoral		
Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan (2014)	Sets out a 5 year life plan identifying actions to be undertaken towards the longer term economic ambitions for Aberdeen City and Shire	The TWS should support the vision and spatial strategy of the Strategic Development Plan and should support its objectives of a high quality environment.
Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017	Guides development in Aberdeenshire Includes policies and supplementary guidance for the protection and enhancement of trees, forests and woodlands, and related topics of landscape and greenbelt.	Cross boundary initiatives exist and will be explored in the future.
Regional Economic Strategy - Securing the future of the north east economy (2015)	A plan for investment in economic development up to 2035. Includes reference to a City Region Deal for UK Government funding. Key sectors are oil and gas, food, drink and primary industries tourism and life sciences. The vision includes a statement: 'We will capitalise on our natural heritage and quality of life and broaden our economic base by growing and developing our food and drink, agriculture and fishing, tourism, life sciences, business, financial and professional services, creative industries and new energy technologies.'	The TWS should support sustainable economic growth by enhancing the city's environment to support inward investment including providing attractive places for tourism. The TWS supports and enhances the economic role of woodlands.
NESTRANS Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), 2013-2035 (2008) 2013 RTS Refresh	Sets out the transport challenges facing Aberdeen City and Shire and how they might be addressed.	The TWS could contribute by meeting the RTS to encourage tree planting along cycle and walking routes which makes them more attractive to users.
Sustainable Development Strategy for NHS Scotland (2009)	Recognises the value of a positive natural environment to mental and physical health. Includes a focus on green spaces and biodiversity and refers to appropriate landscaping and planting.	The TWS should be compatible with the aims of the strategy and could engage with NHS Scotland to encourage projects in Aberdeen.
Regional Tourism Strategy Building on our Strengths 2013 Aberdeen City and Shire Tourism Partnership	Strategy for 2013 – 2020. Recognises the economic importance of tourism to the region. Outcomes are identified for golf; nature and heritage.	The TWS will help to maintain and enhance natural heritage and cultural sites which provide attractions.
Aberdeenshire Land Use Strategy Pilot	Explored integrated rural land use in Aberdeenshire using and ecosystems approach.	The TWS promotes integrated rural land use and enhances the services the environment provides to society.

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Water		
North East Flood Risk Management Strategy	Coordinates the efforts of all organisations that tackle flooding and identifies where the risk of flooding and benefits of investment would be greatest.	The TWS supports flood management and helping to slow run-off and the effects of flooding on people, property and the environment, for example by restoring natural environments.
North East Flood Risk Management Plan 2016	A plan to implement the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and the priorities identified in the NE Flood Risk Management Strategy. This Plan presents actions to avoid and reduce the risk of flooding and protect our communities within these Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) and across the Local [Flood Management] Plan District. There are five PVAs in Aberdeen.	The TWS supports flood management by avoiding impacts of features which assist with flood management and helping to reduce run-off and the effects of flooding on people, property and the environment, for example by restoring natural environments.
Nature Conservation		
North East Biodiversity Partnership Action Plan 2014-17	Ensures the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the north east through the development of effective, local, working partnerships. Ensures that national targets for species and habitats, as specified in the UK Action Plan, are translated into effective local action. Sets out three objectives: to raise awareness about biodiversity and the need for action; to work with partners to deliver actions; and to promote co-ordination between organisations, communities and partners.	The TWS, with careful planning, will promote and protect biodiversity. It should avoid loss or fragmentation of important habitats such as heathland and species rich grassland and should positively contribute to enhancing habitats for protected species in and around Aberdeen. It will help to deliver actions for priority woodland habitats.
River Dee Catchment Management Plan	Records the current state of the Dee catchment, including water quality, the type and extent of habitats and species in the catchment, and important land management activities. Identifies key issues and puts forward potential solutions through a series of actions.	The TWS will contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Catchment Management Plan.
Scottish Strategy for Red Squirrel Conservation (2015)	Provides an overview of current and future priorities and recognises the importance of individuals and communities to the conservation of red squirrels.	The TWS will enhance the red squirrel population in the area through the measures included in this strategy and the continued implementation of the ACC policy on grey squirrel removal.
Forest Habitat Networks Scotland (Grampian) Report	Identifies key woodland and heathland habitats in the region to enable a network analysis to be undertaken and identify priority areas for the restoration and expansion of woodland.	This document was used in the spatial mapping exercise in the TWS and will ensure that planting is directed to areas where benefits will be maximised.

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Trees and Forestry		
Forestry Commission Scotland: Moray & Aberdeenshire Strategic Plan 2014-2017	Sets out the role and strategic direction for the National Forest Estate in the region. Includes a vision for well-managed and sustainably managed land and forests i so they meet social, recreational and conservation aspirations, contribute to the local economy through tourism, renewables and timber production, and integrate well with surrounding land uses. Objectives for healthy, productive, treasured, accessible, cared for forests which provide good value.	The TWS will take cognisance and seek compatibility with the vision, objectives and actions of this Strategic Plan.
Forest and Woodland Strategy for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen (2005)	The Strategy provides a framework for woodland development and management.	The TWS is a replacement for this strategy for Aberdeen City.
Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2016	Defines a vision and objectives for expansion and management of Aberdeenshire forests and woodlands, themed around: Climate change and tree heath; Timber and business development; Communities, development access and health; and Environment, landscape and historic assets.	Aberdeenshire's boundary abuts the ACC boundary and many woodlands span the 2 regions. The TWS has been written in full knowledge of the Aberdeenshire strategy. Opportunities for cross-boundary woodland connectivity have informed the TWS.
Landscape		
Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance (2017)	Identifies Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), which are a local landscape designation placed on an area that exhibits particular qualities and characteristics that are valued locally and includes statements of importance for each area. The sites are protected in the local development plan.	The TWS will consider the SLAs adjoining Aberdeen and promote collaboration in adjoining areas where appropriate to the character of the SLA.
LOCAL		
Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2017	Guides development in Aberdeen and sets out a framework for sustainable economic growth. Includes allocations of land for development and 'constraints' which include protected sites. Includes policies and supplementary guidance for the protection and enhancement of trees and woodlands.	The TWS will help to deliver the LDP policies, and will provide updated supplementary guidance on trees, woodlands and development to seek to reduce their losses.
Aberdeen Local Housing Strategy 2012-2017	Provides the strategic direction to tackle housing need and demand to inform future investment in housing and related services across the local authority area.	The TWS complements the delivery of Aberdeen LHS and encourages the use of tree planting to enhance new and existing housing areas.

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Aberdeen City Local Transport Strategy 2016- 2021	Sets out the policies and interventions adopted by ACC to guide the planning and improvement of the local transport network over the next five years.	The TWS will contribute to improved air quality and enhance active travel routes.
Aberdeen City Air Quality Action Plan	To reduce nitrogen dioxide within the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Aberdeen City Centre, and particulates (PM_{10}) through short, medium and long term infrastructure and other projects. The plan notes that the control of biomass installations is essential to prevent further deterioration in air quality. Tree planting is noted as a measure to address air quality.	The TWS will contribute to delivering the actions proposed in the Action Plan and make clear reference to the air quality benefits from increased tree and woodland cover in the city. The potential effects of biomass installations will need to be reflected in the TWS objectives.
Aberdeen Noise Maps and Noise Action Plan 2014	Maps identify areas in the city affected by noise. Recognises the value of urban green spaces in managing noise. Noise mitigation measures focus on reducing traffic flows.	The TWS should contribute to the management of noise by the introduction of additional tree cover. This could be focused on noise management areas.
Aberdeen City Deer Management Plan	Sets out the legislative requirements for deer management in Aberdeen and describes ACC's approach. Proposes a collaborative approach to deer management which will result sustainable deer numbers.	The TWS will need to take account of deer management and integrate its woodland planting and on-going management activities with the City's deer management plan..
Forestry Commission Scotland Management Plans: Aberdeen Woods and Dyce Woods	Details how FCS will manage these woodlands for social, economic and environmental benefits. The plans include objectives for timber harvesting, recreational use, creation of diverse habitats and management regimes to benefit red squirrels.	The TWS is compatible with the FCS management plans.
Powering Aberdeen – Aberdeen's Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2016	Plan for Aberdeen to increase energy efficiency and move towards greater use of renewable energy. Sets targets for reducing carbon emissions. Briefly notes the role of plants and soils in sequestering emissions.	The TWS will help to support some renewable energy objectives (local biomass), reduced energy usage in buildings and active travel. Additional tree and woodland planting will help to sequester carbon dioxide emissions. There could be conflicting objectives for air quality.
ACC Nature Conservation Strategy	Aims to conserve Aberdeen City's natural heritage for the benefit of biodiversity, citizens and visitors, for current and future generations.	The TWS will help to deliver the aims of the strategy as long as there is interaction between the groups managing the projects.
Open Space Audit and Strategy 2011-2016	Sets out a strategic vision, aims and objectives for open space in Aberdeen. Its main purpose is to ensure the city has enough accessible and good quality open space. The Strategy is based on the findings of the Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2010.	Ensure that the TWS incorporates the findings of the audit and supports the aims of the strategy.

Name of PPS	Main requirement of PPS	Implication of the PPS on the TWS
Aberdeen City Core Paths Plan	Provides the basic framework of paths to meet communities' needs while minimizing any potential conflict with land management.	The TWS supports the aims of the Core Paths Plan and encourages use and enjoyment of these routes through tree and woodland protection and planting.
Aberdeen Landscape Strategy (2002) and updated strategy due 2018	Sets out the landscape planning approach for the city's landscapes identifying prime landscape areas of importance to the setting of the city. Builds on the Landscape Character Assessment (1996)	The TWS will help to deliver the aims and objectives of the strategy and any subsequent landscape assessment documents.
Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) of Aberdeen (1996)	Classifies the rural landscapes of Aberdeen into areas of distinct character. Identifies sensitivity to a range of landscape change drivers, including woodland and forestry expansion.	The LCA was taken into account in the writing of the TWS.
Landscape Character Assessment of Aberdeen (currently draft). Coastal Character Assessment of Aberdeen (currently draft) Aberdeen Peri- Urban Landscape Study (currently draft)	A refreshed version of the 1996 Landscape Character Assessment with additional detail provided for the coast and for peri-urban areas. Guidelines for maintaining, protecting and enhancing landscape distinctiveness include guidance on appropriate woodland expansion.	The TWS should ensure that landscape character, and the emerging guidelines within the suite of documents, are delivered by the strategy. It should promote best practice in woodland design and management to maintain local distinctiveness.
City Centre Masterplan & other masterplans	A plan for regeneration of the city centre whilst conserving its heritage. Includes objectives for public spaces, reducing car usage. It proposes 1,000 new trees to be planted. Other masterplans exist for Local Development Plan Opportunity Sites	The TWS supports and guides the aims of masterplans, ensuring that trees and woodlands are retained and protected where appropriate. The TWS should guide future masterplans to improve protection and provision for trees and woodlands.
Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan and Locality Plans	Implements the duty to develop a community plan for the social, economic and environmental well-being of the city. Recognises the importance of the environment, including green spaces, for health and developing resilience to the effects of climate change.	The TWS should support the objectives for community wellbeing and resilience to climate change.