




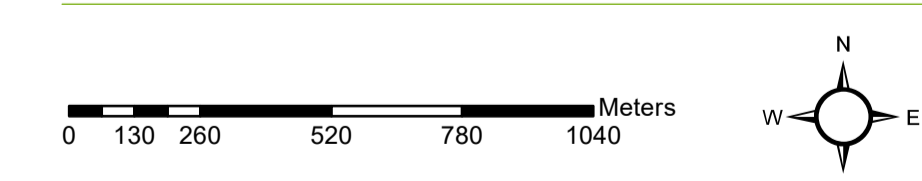


**Blairadam Forest
land management plan
(2024 - 2034)**

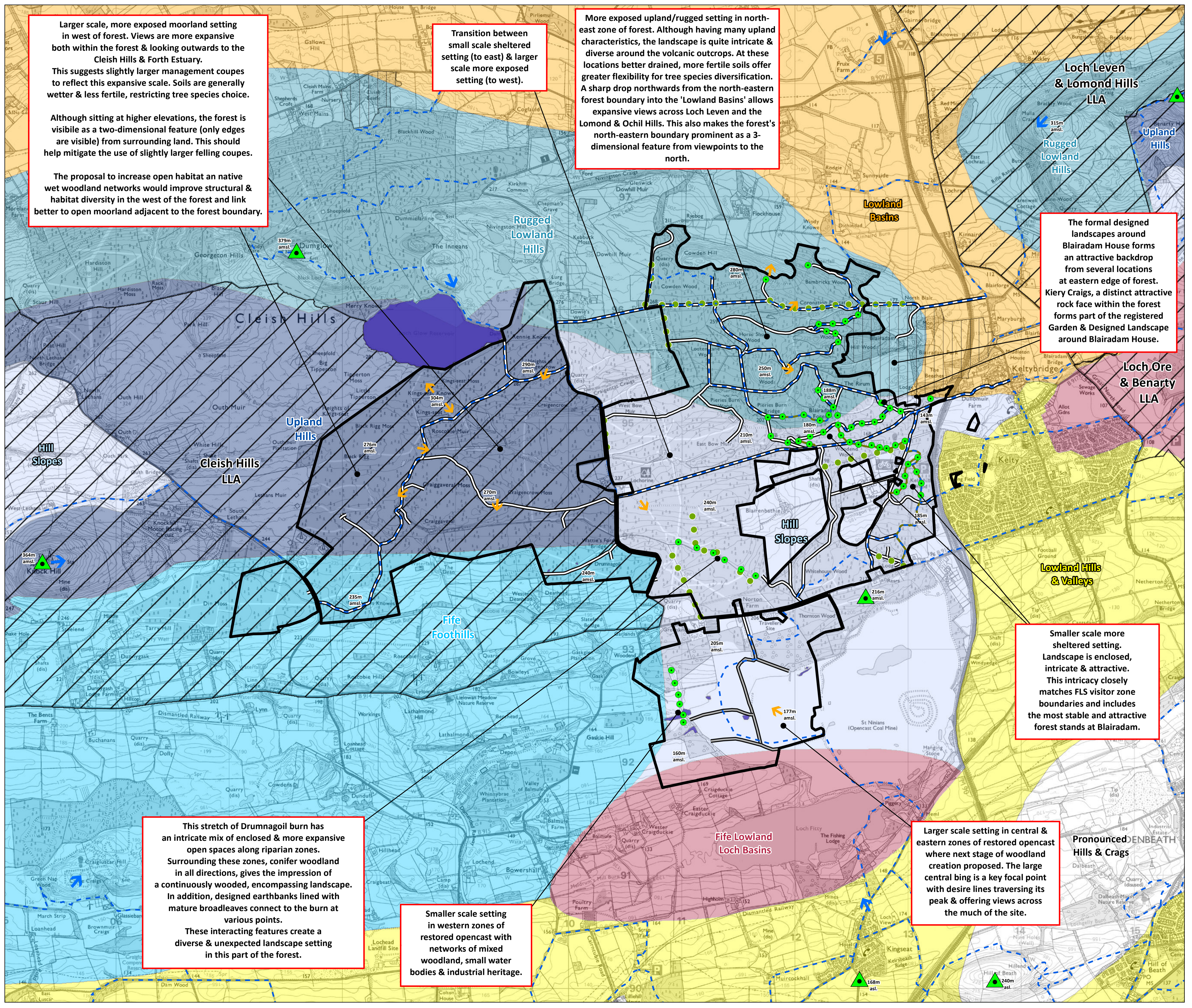
Landscape Setting
Author: Central Region Planning Team
Scale @ A1: 1:15,000
Date: 14/12/2023

**DRAFT
PLAN**

- Legend**
-  Blairadam Plan Boundary
 -  External views of forest
 -  Potential to improve/retain internal viewpoint
 -  Ordnance Survey Trig Points
 -  Genius Loci
 -  Core Paths
 -  Other recorded paths
 -  Remnant designed avenues & tree-lined boundaries
 -  Existing forest roads
 -  St Ninians post opencast tracks
 -  Registered Gardens & Designed Landscapes
 -  Open Water within or bordering forest
 -  Local Landscape Areas (LLA)
- SNH Landscape Character Areas**
-  Upland Hills
 -  Rugged Lowland Hills
 -  Pronounced Hills and Crags
 -  Foothills - Fife
 -  Hill Slopes
 -  Lowland Basins
 -  Lowland Hills and Valleys
 -  Lowland Loch Basins - Fife



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Larger scale, more exposed moorland setting in west of forest. Views are more expansive both within the forest & looking outwards to the Cleish Hills & Forth Estuary. This suggests slightly larger management coupes to reflect this expansive scale. Soils are generally wetter & less fertile, restricting tree species choice.

Although sitting at higher elevations, the forest is visible as a two-dimensional feature (only edges are visible) from surrounding land. This should help mitigate the use of slightly larger felling coupes.

The proposal to increase open habitat and native wet woodland networks would improve structural & habitat diversity in the west of the forest and link better to open moorland adjacent to the forest boundary.

Transition between small scale sheltered setting (to east) & larger scale more exposed setting (to west).

More exposed upland/rugged setting in north-east zone of forest. Although having many upland characteristics, the landscape is quite intricate & diverse around the volcanic outcrops. At these locations better drained, more fertile soils offer greater flexibility for tree species diversification. A sharp drop northwards from the north-eastern forest boundary into the 'Lowland Basins' allows expansive views across Loch Leven and the Lomond & Ochil Hills. This also makes the forest's north-eastern boundary prominent as a 3-dimensional feature from viewpoints to the north.

The formal designed landscapes around Blairadam House forms an attractive backdrop from several locations at eastern edge of forest. Kiery Craigs, a distinct attractive rock face within the forest forms part of the registered Garden & Designed Landscape around Blairadam House.

Smaller scale more sheltered setting. Landscape is enclosed, intricate & attractive. This intricacy closely matches FLS visitor zone boundaries and includes the most stable and attractive forest stands at Blairadam.

This stretch of Drumnagoil burn has an intricate mix of enclosed & more expansive open spaces along riparian zones. Surrounding these zones, conifer woodland in all directions, gives the impression of a continuously wooded, encompassing landscape. In addition, designed earthbanks lined with mature broadleaves connect to the burn at various points. These interacting features create a diverse & unexpected landscape setting in this part of the forest.

Smaller scale setting in western zones of restored opencast with networks of mixed woodland, small water bodies & industrial heritage.

Larger scale setting in central & eastern zones of restored opencast where next stage of woodland creation proposed. The large central bing is a key focal point with desire lines traversing its peak & offering views across the much of the site.