

APPLICATION FOR FOREST DESIGN PLAN APPROVAL (Ref: CSM6)

Forest District:	TAY
Woodland or property name:	HALLYBURTON AND DRONLEY
Nearest town, village or locality:	Coupar Angus
OS Grid reference:	NO 270 380 and NO 345 367
Local Authority district/unitary Authority:	Perth & Kinross and Angus Councils

Areas for approval

	Conifer	Broadleaf
Clear felling	41.0	0.2
Selective felling	*	*
Restocking	37.0	2.8
New planting (complete CSM6 App. 4)	0.0	0.0

1. I apply for Forest Design Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Design Plan.
2. I confirm that the initial scoping of the plan was carried out with FC staff on 30/5/02.
3. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
4. I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the FC agreed must be included.
5. I confirm that agreement has been reached with all of the stakeholders over the content of the design plan and that there are no outstanding issues to be addressed. Copies of consultee endorsements of the plan are attached.
6. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed Signed
Forest District Manager Conservator

DistrictTAY..... Conservancy

DateDate of Approval.....

Date approval ends:

*delete as appropriate

TAY FOREST DISTRICT
Forestry Commission Scotland

HALLYBURTON AND DRONLEY FOREST PLAN

Forest Enterprise Ref. Number	504/02/30-32
FC (Scotland) Ref. Number	

APPROVAL PERIOD (Although illustrated to 20**)	1 April 2003 – 31 March 2013
--	------------------------------

Supplementary documentation available at Tay Forest District, Inverpark, Dunkeld, PH8 0JR

LOCATION (see Appendix 1)	<p>Hallyburton Forest is situated on the north-western slopes of the Sidlaws, the ridge of hills running from Perth to Forfar. It consists of four separate areas – Hallyburton (Drumsuldry/Pitcur), Oakwood, North Ballo and Little Ballo.</p> <p>Dronley Wood is a smaller forest in Auchterhouse, just to the north-west of Dundee.</p>
FOREST AREA	439 ha

ANALYSIS OF KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES (Appendix 2):

	STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS (e.g. SSSI, SAM, etc.)
<u>KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES</u>	None in the forests but there are two SSSI's on neighbouring land.
	LANDSCAPE
<u>KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES</u>	Hallyburton woods partly visible from long distance and are a major local feature of this part of the Sidlaws. Dronley is important in the local landscape.
	CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE
<u>KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES</u>	Dronley – heronry and red squirrels. Hallyburton – red squirrels and badgers, adjacent SSSI's on Lundie Crag and at Lairds Loch, pond in disused quarry. Norway spruce and pine are important habitats for red squirrels. Oakwood in Hallyburton is on an ancient woodland site – currently carrying oak, beech and ash. Probably managed as an oakwood for a long period.
	RECREATION
<u>KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES</u>	Main usage in all woodlands is by walkers – both local and from nearby urban areas. Some horse riding. Very little mountain biking. Neighbouring commercial fishing in Ledcrieff Loch. Quarry popular with climbers. All areas close to major population centres and are easily accessible by public transport. Dronley has an active community group, who are becoming increasingly involved in management of this wood. Community Woodland on neighbouring land at Lairds Loch.
	TIMBER PRODUCTION
<u>KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES</u>	Good growth rates being achieved for a wide range of species. Easy access on site and to the markets. High quality oak timber potential from Oakwood.
	WATER
<u>KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES</u>	No known private water supplies arise within the forest. As mentioned above, Ledcrieff Loch is a managed fishery.
	SERVICES
<u>KEY FEATURES AND ISSUES</u>	Powerlines go through Oakwood, Hallyburton and Dronley.

CONSULTATION ON ISSUES AND DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

The sustainable and efficient management of this forest will be driven by the identification of an appropriate balance between environmental issues, people's interests and economic productivity. To aid this process a draft Strategic Plan was prepared for initial consultation. This included a proposed zonation and relative priority for key issues within the **broad categories of conservation, landscape, recreation and timber production.**

In comparison with other Forestry Commission forests in Scotland, the following classification gives a wider context to the overall value of this forest:

Category	Relative value and comments
Landscape	Hallyburton – High (long distance views and internal landscapes) Oakwood – Low (although important backdrop to neighbouring houses) North Ballo – High (long distance views and internal landscapes) Little Ballo – Low (not highly visible) Dronley – Moderate (locally important)
Conservation/heritage	Hallyburton – Moderate (red squirrels are present) Oakwood – High (ancient woodland site) North Ballo – Low (mainly common woodland species) Little Ballo – Moderate (red squirrels are present) Dronley – Moderate (red squirrels are present)
Recreation	Hallyburton – Moderate (well used by walkers) Oakwood – Low (mainly by neighbours) North Ballo – High (a network of informal paths criss-cross the forest) Little Ballo – Low (some usage by local walkers) Dronley – High (well used, mainly by locals)
Timber Production	Hallyburton – High (good soils and access) Oakwood – High (fertile, sheltered location) North Ballo – Moderate (good soils in places, exposed in other areas) Little Ballo – Moderate (mixture of good and poor site types) Dronley – Moderate (mixture of good and poor site types)

This information was circulated to the following people on ...30/5/2002

Title	FirstName	Surname	Organisation		
Mrs	M	Allan		No 2 Oakwood	Hallyburton
Ms	M	Anderson	Kettins CC	Baldowie House	Kettins
Mr & Mrs	Iain &	Baird		Scotston	Auchterhouse
Mr	A F	Barton	Kinburnie Estate	Kinburnie Estate Office	Newtyle
Ms	Caroline	Beecroft	Secretary, Lundie, Muirhead & Birkhill CC	The Fens, Dronley Road	Birkhill
Mr	Robert D	Bruce	Auchterhouse CC	Inshriach	The Brae
Mrs	Fiona	Carrie		24/15 Charleston	Glamis
Mr & Mrs	C	Dunbar		No 5 Oakwood	Hallyburton
	The	Factor	Hallyburton	Estate Office	Hallyburton
Mr	Paul	Fox	Ledcreeff Fishery	Tullybaccart	Coupar Angus
Ms	Jillian	Grant		Fowlis Castle	Fowlis
Miss	Marjorie	Grant		Keillor Farm Cottage	Keillor, Kettins
Ms	Natalie	Gray		North Bank, Main Street	Kirkmichael
Rev	W F	Harris		35 St Marys Drive	Perth
Dr	Jane	Harrold		Easfield House	Auchterhouse
Mr	G	Jamieson		No 1 Oakwood	Hallyburton
Mrs	J	Kettles	Secretary, Coupar Angus & Bendochy CC	8 Precinct Street	Coupar Angus
Mrs	Morven	Lawson		Chapel of Dron	By Invergowrie
Mr	Richard	Low		Pitpointie Farm	Auchterhouse
Mr	W	McLaren		No 6 Oakwood	Hallyburton
Mrs	R	McLean		Keillor Farm	Kettins
	The	Occupier		No 3 Oakwood	Hallyburton
	The	Occupier		Glencairn, Oakwood	Hallyburton
	The	Occupier		No 4 Oakwood	Hallyburton
Mr	E	Palmer	North Tayside Badger Group	Hillhead	North Mains of Kinnettles
Mr	G	Patullo		Tullybaccart Farm	Coupar Angus
Mrs	Alison	Seggie		Windy Edge	Woodlands Road
Ms	Sarah	Shanks		Burnside Farm, Main Road	Woodside
Mr	W W	Shaw		Newton of Ballunie	Kettins
Mr	Roderick	Stewart		Dronley House	Dronley
Mr	Garry	Stewart	Chairman, Dronley Users Group	Drummuir	Pipers Way
Mrs	Susan	Thomson		Kirklands	By Meigle
Mrs	Emma	Thomson		Glebe of Nevay	Kirkinch
Mrs	Pam	Watson	Scottish Endurance Riding Club Tayside Branch	Denhead House	Fowlis
Mr	B	Wilkie		Ardgarth Farm	Lundie

and the resultant feedback is summarised below:

Consultee	Date response received	Main issues raised	Our response
Horseways Mrs Pam Watson	15/7/2002	Soft tracks required for horses. Deer fences and cattle grids in Ballo impede horse access. Priests Road right of way is a major local issue. Little Ballo is high value because of the soft surface.	Cattle grids have been removed. Deer fence in Ballo is now gone. There is free access for horses in all these woods. Further issues will be discussed through normal liaison.
W G Maclaren	8/7/2002	The last red squirrel in the Oakwood block was seen about five years ago, which were replaced by greys which have also ceased to be seen about six months ago.	We will continue to provide good habitat reserves for red squirrels by increasing area committed to retention of mature conifers. In the mature oakwood it is likely that the red squirrels will not fare so well as it is preferred habitat for greys.
Marjorie Grant	12/7/2002	Hallyburton woods have very high value for horse riders, and the recreation value generally is higher than the draft suggests. Soft tracks are the best going for horses.	See above. Recreation priority in Hallyburton amended.
Hallyburton Estate	15/7/2002	Phoned to say that the owner was out o the country and would not return till after the deadline.	Awaiting feedback when owner returns.
Roderick Stewart	15/7/2002	Phoned to suggest medium importance for recreation in Dronley. Suggested the installation of a small gate at the junction of our properties. Emphasised the importance of the mature Scots pine. Attended the meeting in Dronley.	Priorities for Dronley altered after the meeting. Provision of a small gate at the boundary of his property agreed. Area of mature Scots pine to be retained and recorded on the District Conservation Plan.

Auchterhouse Community Woodland Group	18/7/2002	Meeting in Dronley wood to discuss the plan. Detailed and practical response on coupe shape and future replanting. Concern about red squirrels and protection of future crops. Refinement of priorities for Dronley. Suggestion that one coupe in the Birkhill side should be created and replanted with broadleaves with a proportion of open space and paths.	Priorities revised. Draft felling proposals revised to accommodate small clearfells on Birkhill side. Some smaller openings on the forest edge will be accommodated within the management prescription for continuous cover in those areas. The proposal to manage most of the conifer area as continuous cover will provide good habitat for red squirrels. Future path lines discussed. An increase in recreational use is likely in this area when new housing is built.
North Tayside Badger Group	18/7/2002	Increasing use of Hallyburton setts. Some clearance to improve access for monitoring required. Overall badgers well protected. Dronley has old sett; but badgers reported in the vicinity. Pleased with overall co-operation of FE employees. Public access does not seem to have any adverse effect on badger population. Attended meeting at Dronley.	Continuing liaison will improve some of the minor problems with badger protection. Old setts will continue to be protected, and monitoring by the group should continue. We are grateful for the high quality service and advice we receive from the group.
Kinburnie Estates Office	1/8/2002	Correction of contact details for Mr Cayzer and the estate. Concerned about spread of grey squirrels onto the estate.	Increase in continuous cover of Scots pine and Larch should ensure good potential for red squirrels and minimise encroachment of grey squirrels.

I

STRATEGIC PLAN (Appendix 3)

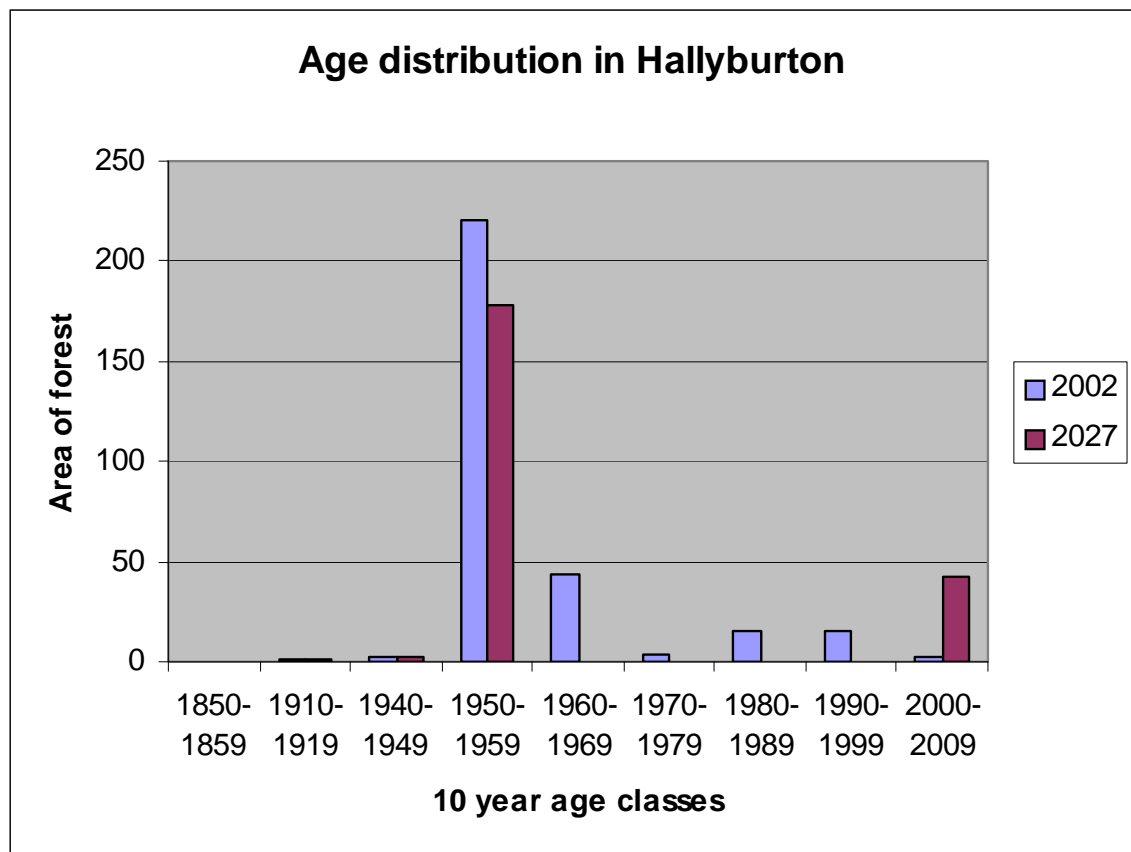
Following the comments above the plan was amended and the balance of priorities within each zone shown with a pie chart. This is shown in Appendix 3.

FELLING SEQUENCE AND RETENTIONS (Appendix 4)

Subject	Comments
Timing and scale of coupes	<p>In the main Hallyburton block the aim was to reduce the size of the coupes, to increase the age and height diversity, and convert the core of the forest to continuous cover, to preserve habitat (red squirrel).</p> <p>Core areas of the other three blocks are also to be converted to continuous cover, with any remaining coupes reduced in size to maintain and enhance landscape and recreational quality. This is especially relevant to Dronley which is a small forest with high public access.</p>
Roading	<p>At present it is anticipated that no new roads will be required for future harvesting.</p>
Management of retentions	<p>The detailed prescriptions for the areas committed to continuous cover are available from the Tay Forest District office. A summary of these is supplied at Appendix 7. These outline the reasons for selection, the long-term structure proposed for the retention, conversion period, return period for thinnings and next planned operation. The detailed local records will be amended with comments as the retention areas develop and become a longer term record for future reference.</p>

Change in forest structure
(see figure below)

The plan retains approximately 33% (144 ha) of mainly conifer plantation as continuous cover, and will begin re-structuring the rest of the forest (generally those areas planted after 1960), into smaller coupe sizes more in keeping with the landscape.



Other Issues	<p>The minimum target stocking density will be 2500 trees per net hectare for conifers and 1100 trees per net hectare for broadleaves.</p> <p>Where the key in Appendix 5 indicates that more than one species will be planted, the location of individual species will reflect landform and site type eg larch and pine on the knolls and spruce in the hollows. The various species will also be merged at the margins to avoid abrupt changes.</p> <p>Deer management to aid restocking and natural regeneration will be as described in the relevant part of Tay Forest District's Protection Plan. This defines the target deer population as related to the changing forest structure, together with the date and method for achieving that density. The provision of deer glades will be covered at the time of the construction of the detailed site plan for felling and replanting each coupe, although in many cases they will be incorporated into the evolving structure of native woodland/open space. The other key issue of maintaining or creating access to these areas will also be covered at that stage.</p>
--------------	---

RESTOCKING FRAMEWORK AND FUTURE SPECIES (Appendix 5)

Subject	Comments
Long-term structure	The main change is the reduction of size and area of felling coupes in the main Hallyburton Block, and the introduction of core continuous cover areas in all of the plantations. This will mean less disruption and maintain the visual amenity of the forest.
Species change (see table below)	During the course of the plan the changes proposed to the species proportions is minimal. The forest is already diverse in species and habitat (see table below), and the plan will aim to maintain that.
Other issues	<p>The minimum target stocking density will be 2500 trees per net hectare for conifers and 1100 trees per net hectare for broadleaves.</p> <p>Where the key in Appendix 5 indicates that more than one species will be planted, the location of individual species will reflect landform and site type e.g. larch and pine on the knolls and spruce in the hollows. The various species will also be merged at the margins to avoid abrupt changes.</p> <p>Deer management to aid restocking and natural regeneration will be as described in the relevant part of Tay</p>

	Forest District's Protection Plan. This defines the target deer population as related to the changing forest structure, together with the date and method for achieving that density. The provision of deer glades will be covered at the time of the construction of the detailed site plan for felling and replanting each coupe, although in many cases they will be incorporated into the evolving structure of native woodland/open space. The other key issue of maintaining or creating access to these areas will also be covered at that stage.
--	--

	Existing (%)	By 2026 (%)
Sitka spruce	8	9
Norway spruce	15	14
Scots pine	24	23
Other pine	3	4
Larch	21	20
Other conifers	2	1
Broadleaves	6	7
Other	21	22
Total	100	100

LANDSCAPE PERSPECTIVES FROM KEY VIEWPOINTS (Appendix 6)

Subject	Comments
Visual changes in landscape	<p>The proposed felling coupes are generally in scale with the landscape, and will have minimal impact on the views. (See appendix 6).</p> <p>The forest structure will also improve through time, by restructuring some of the more uniform areas, the move of core areas to continuous cover, and adjustments to the species range and proportions.</p>

IMPACT OF PROPOSALS ON OTHER KEY SUBJECTS

Subject	Comments
Conservation and heritage	<p>All the known unscheduled archaeological sites will be protected as described in the Tay Forest District Conservation Site Schedule which is referred to before any operations are carried out in their vicinity. Any new features discovered within the forest will be brought to the attention of the local Council's archaeologist to ascertain their value.</p> <p>The effects of forest operations on the adjacent SSSI's at Craigs of Lundie and Argarth Loch, Lairds Loch, Little Ballo, Redmyre Hill, and Blacklaw Hill Myre will be taken into account in the planning of the work.</p>

Recreation	<p>There is informal walking in all the forest areas in the plan, which co-exists with open access for cycling and riding which will be continued. The community woodland at Tullybaccart links into the eastern edge of North Ballo. Improvements to the walks system may be undertaken if finances become available.</p> <p>There are no plans at present to extend this, although the formation of a user group at Dronley may give access to funding to allow some work to take place in the future.</p> <p>There are fishing lochs in Hallyburton and North Ballo. The loch in Hallyburton is run as a commercial fisher, and site meetings to discuss these are held in advance of operations with the lease owner.</p> <p>The quarry in Hallyburton is well used at weekends by rock climbers. External fencing and warning signs will be maintained against casual visitors.</p>
Water	<p>When felling and restocking are carried out the Forest and Water Guidelines (3rd Edition) will be strictly adhered to. Timber extraction will normally avoid crossing the burns or main drains but, where necessary, each crossing point will be piped or bridged. Branches will be kept out of watercourses and trees will generally be felled away from the watercourses. When restocking, planting will normally be kept back from the watercourses, although broadleaves may be planted or regenerated to provide dappled shade.</p>
Services	<p>Scottish and Southern Electric have wayleave agreements in Hallyburton and Dronley, to keep powerlines free from encroaching trees. Site meetings are held in advance of specific felling operations to resolve safety issues.</p>
Other	<p>Any herbicide treatment will follow the procedure specified in Forestry Commission Field Book 8 "The Use of Herbicides in the Forest".</p> <p>Any waste arising from forest operations will be disposed in a responsible manner or recycled (e.g. old fencing material). Where appropriate, disposal will be through registered outlets. This does not include branches, timber offcuts and roots scattered across felling sites, which are regarded as green manure returning nutrients to the soil.</p>

TOLERANCES TABLE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREST PLAN
--

	<u>Adjustment to felling coupes</u>	<u>Timing of restocking</u>	<u>Change to species</u>	<u>Windthrow clearance</u>	<u>Changes to road lines</u>
FC approval not normally required	0.5ha or 5% of coupe – whichever is less	Up to 4 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers, broadleaves	Up to 0.5ha	
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5 to 2.0ha or 10% of coupe – whichever is less			0.5 to 2.0 ha – if mainly windblown trees 2.0 to 5.0ha in areas of low sensitivity	Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of >60m in either direction from centre line of road
Approval by formal plan amendment	> 2ha or 10% of coupe	Over 4 planting seasons after felling	Change from specified native species Change between species groups	>5ha	As above, depending on sensitivity

Supporting documentation listing

Appendix 1	Location Map
Appendix 2	Plan of Key Features and Issues
Appendix 3	Strategic Plan
Appendix 4	Felling Sequence and Retentions
Appendix 5	Restocking Framework and Future Species
Appendix 6	Landscape Perspectives from Key Viewpoints*
Appendix 7	Management prescriptions for conversion to continuous cover

*not included – none of the felling areas are visible from external viewpoints.