

Wester Kinleith Woodland Creation

Analysis of Key Viewpoints using Map Maker Prospect

iewpoints

ollowing on from initial landscape and viewpoint analysis, six
iewpoints were identified to be representative of commonly
vailable views onto the site.

he Map Maker Prospect programme has been used to generate
arious computer images of the proposed woodland as seen from
he identified viewpoints.

he views selected were from the following locations. The numbers
re as those used as shown on Map 1:-

. **Harlaw Car Park** – this shows the views looking southwards onto
he northern edge of the site from the vicinity of the very well used
ar park at Harlaw

. **Maidens Cleugh Core Path** – this provides a view from the
aiden's Cleugh path as it descends from its high point, from a
cation which provides the widest panoramic view over the site

. **Black Hill eastern path** – this provides a clear view onto the
astern section of the site, including the woodland's upper margins

. **Black Hill western path** – this location provides expansive views
ver the western half of the site, most notably the steep ground
bove Black Springs.

. **Threipmuir Causeway**– this location provides clear views over the
eservoir and onto the shallow ridge marked by the presence of
hreipmuir farmstead

. **M8 Motorway** – The site can be briefly glimpsed from east-
ound traffic.

Images

For each of the viewpoints, plan and perspective/panoramic images ho
been generated using digital design information.

A single plan image and two panoramas have been produced for each
the six viewpoints:-

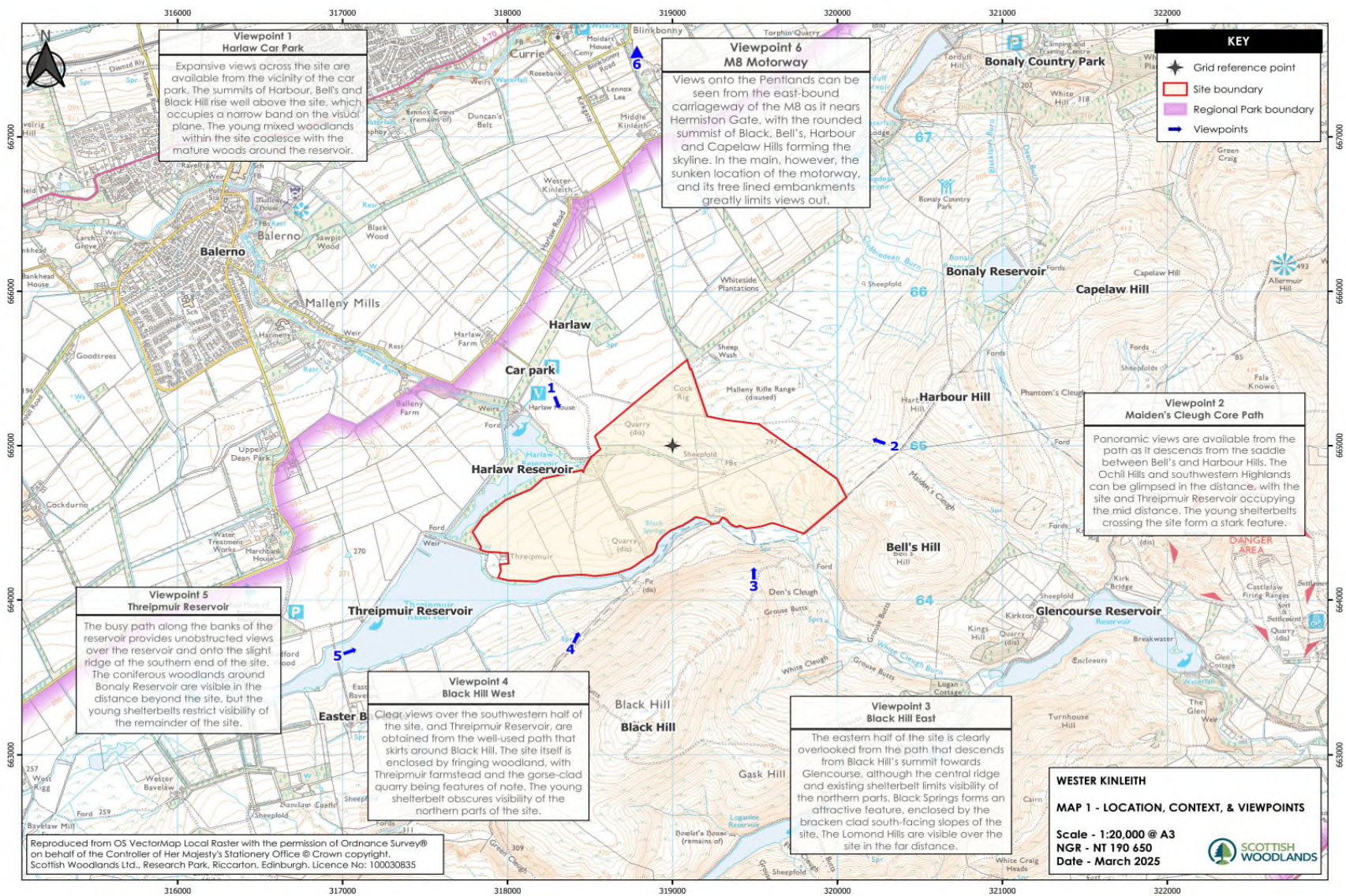
Plan View – The plan images show the location of the viewpoint, the bre
of view used in the perspective, and the footprint of the design of the
proposed woodland at Wester Kinleith, using vibrant colours to represent
various species mixes.

Panorama 2025 – the upper image provides a perspective image for the
Timeline, before any new planting has occurred. Information on existing
woodlands is gleaned from the National Forest Inventory, with the wood
being classed/shaded as broadleaved, coniferous, or mixed. Note that
woodlands, trees lines etc. present in the landscape are unlikely to be
represented.

Panorama 2066– the lower image shows the woodland design as it will
appear in roughly 40 years time, using yield class predictions to produce
heights. Existing woodland is shown as it is in 2025 (i.e. not including for a
future growth), with the proposed new woodlands being shown in Summ
colours.

Wester Kinleith Landscape Visualisations

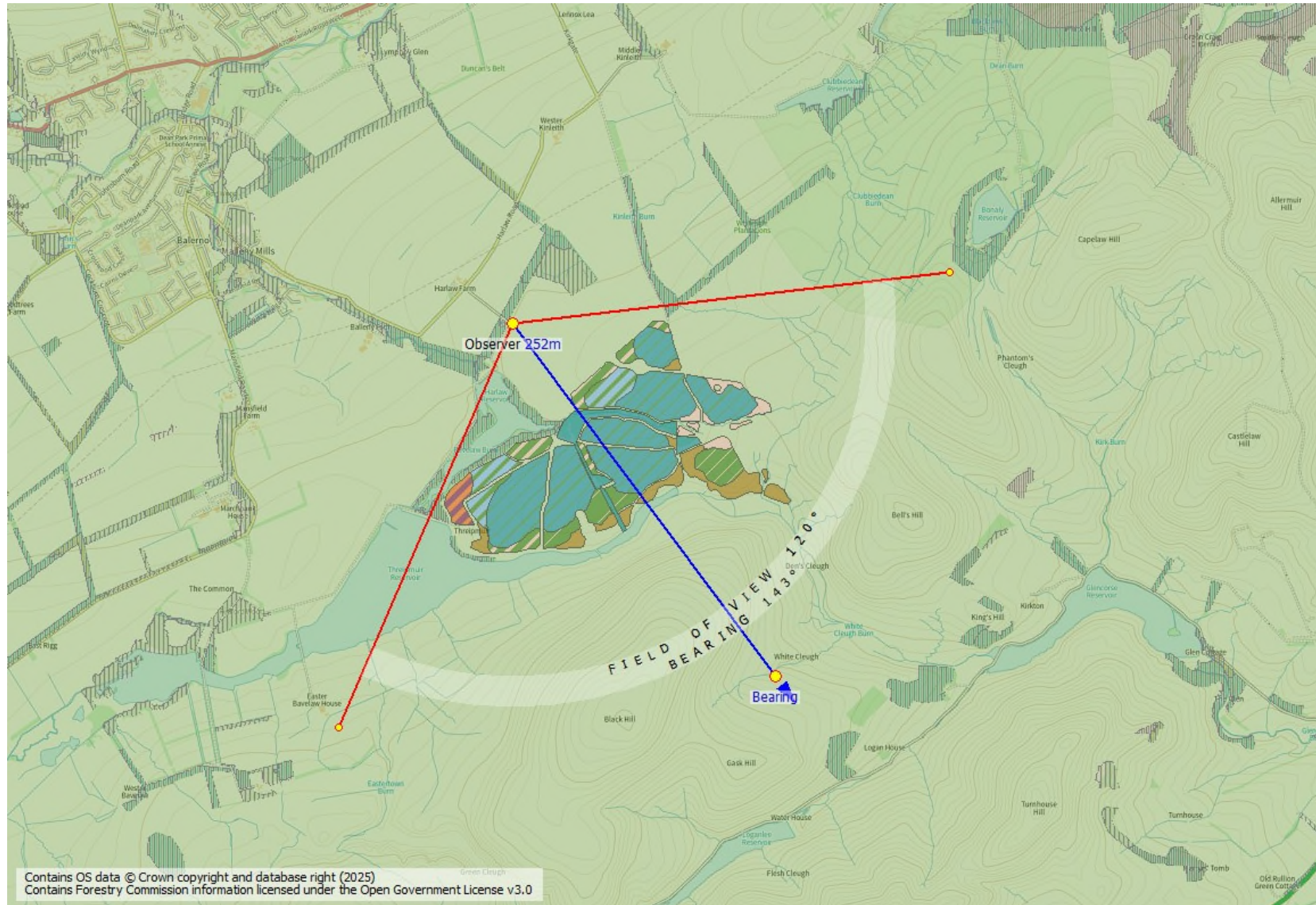
Location of Viewpoints



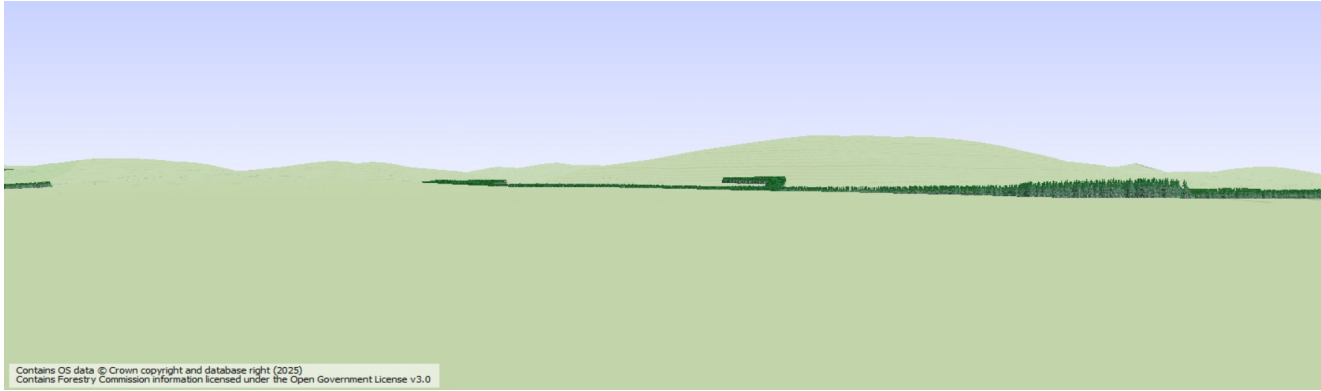
Wester Kinleith Landscape Visualisations

Woodland Design

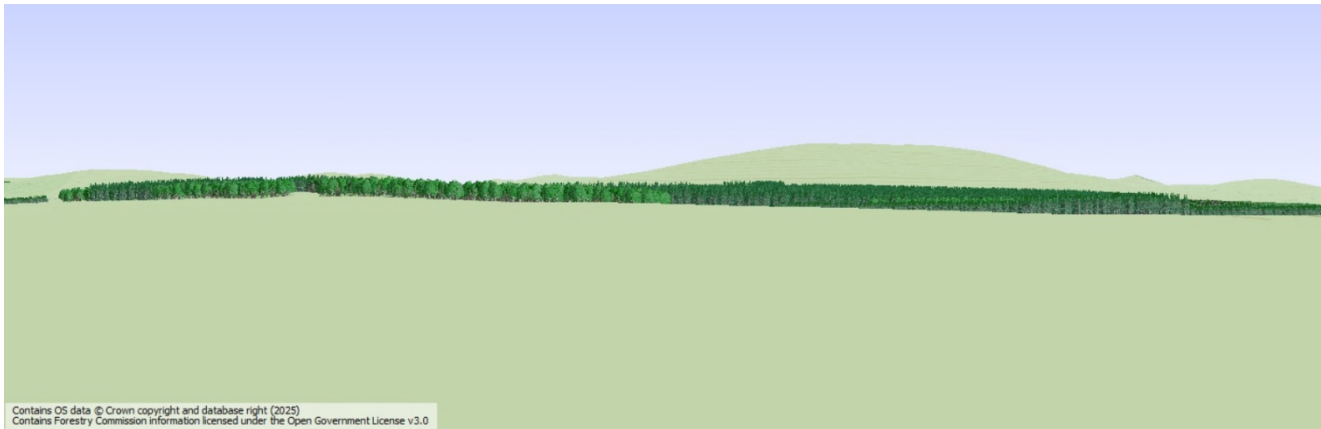




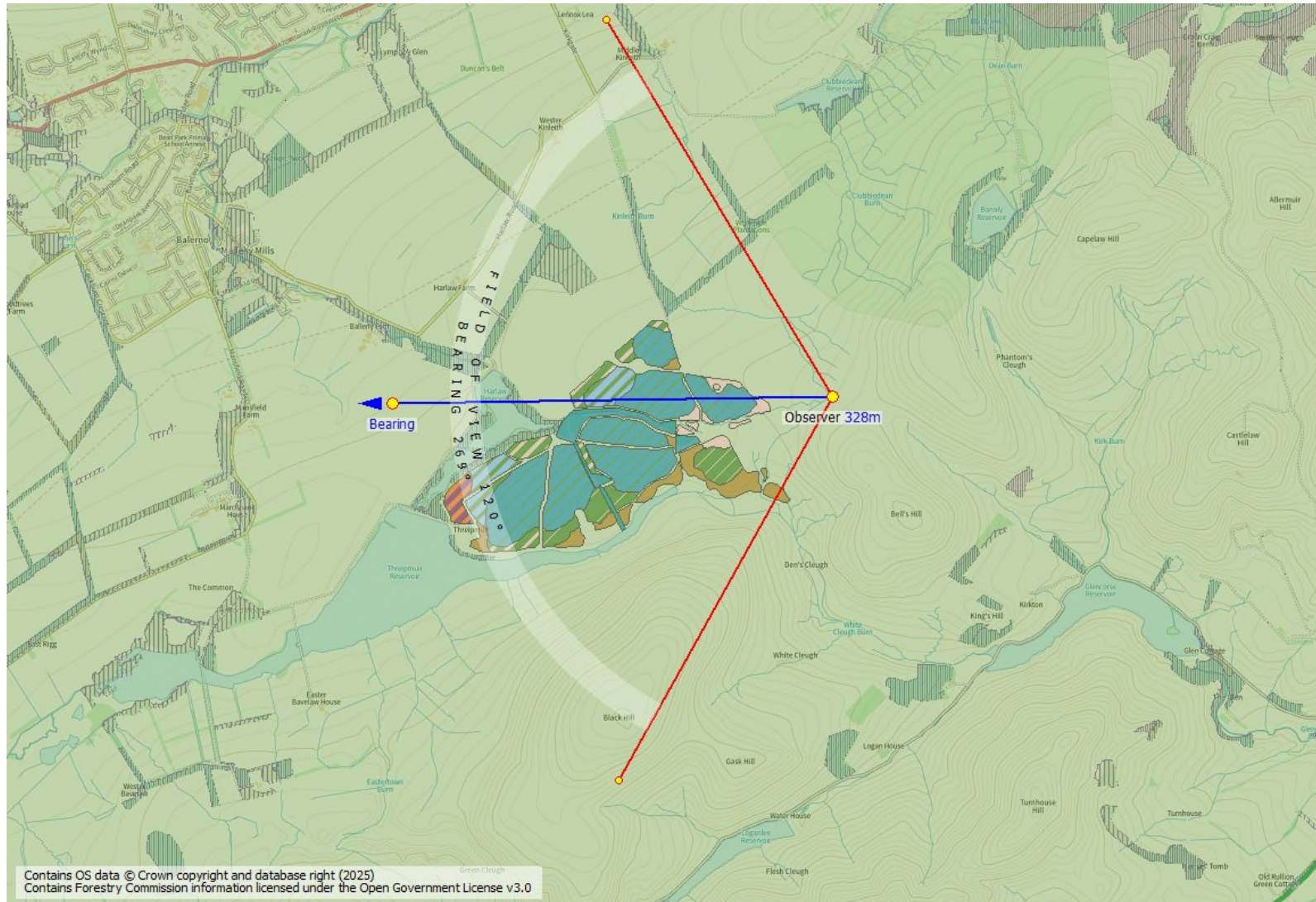
Wester Kinleith Landscape Visualisations View 1 – NT 182655 Panorama 2025 & 2066



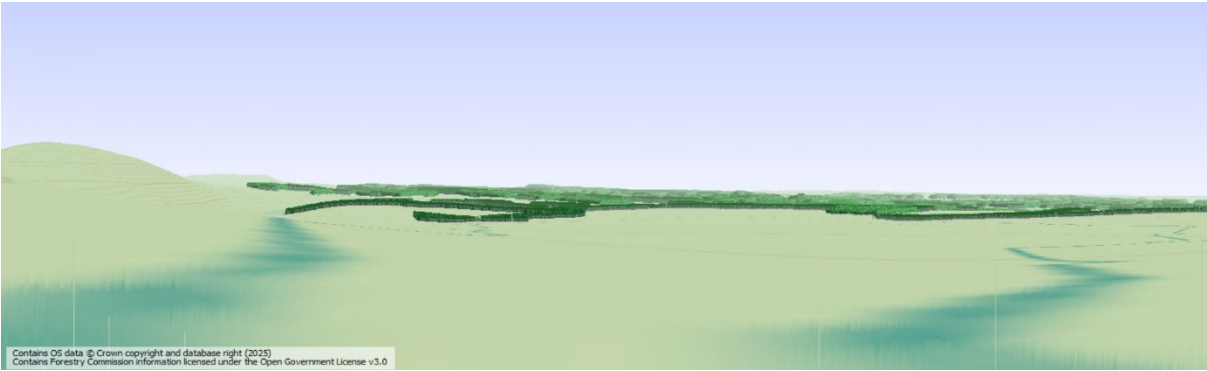
Year 2025 – Harlaw Car Park Expansive views across the site are available from the vicinity of the car park. The summits of Harbour, Bell's and Black Hill rise well above the site, which occupies a narrow band on the visual plane. The existing young mixed woodlands within the site coalesce with the mature woods around the reservoir.



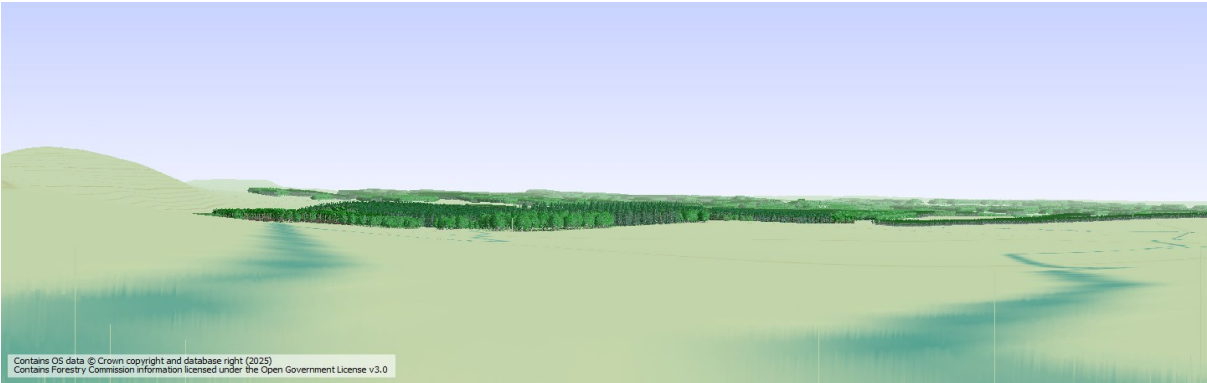
Year 2065 – The southern edge of the new woodland will extend across the foreground, with mixed broadleaved/conifer woodland being placed on the visible margins to reflect the character of the existing woodland, and to provide a 'soft' woodland edge. While the upper margins of the woodland will eventually be visible, the balance of open ground will be largely unaffected, with no long-distance views lost.



ester Kinleith Landscape Visualisations View 2– NT 200651 Panorama 2025 & 2066

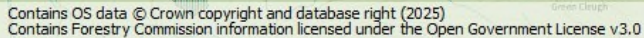


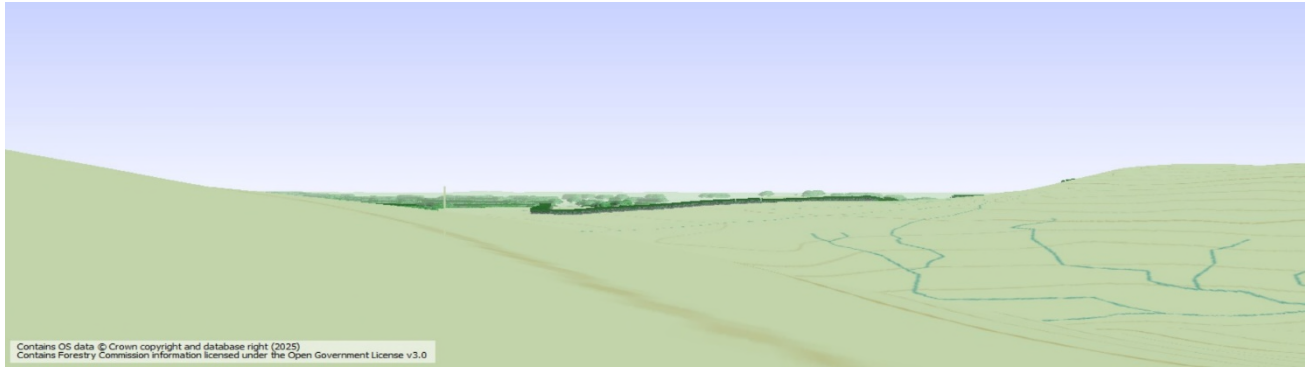
Year 2025 – Maiden’s Cleugh Core Path Panoramic views are available from the path as it descends from the saddle between Bell’s and Harbour Hills. The Chil Hills and southwestern Highlands can be glimpsed in the distance, with the site, and Threipmuir Reservoir, occupying the mid distance. The existing young shelterbelts crossing the site form a stark feature.



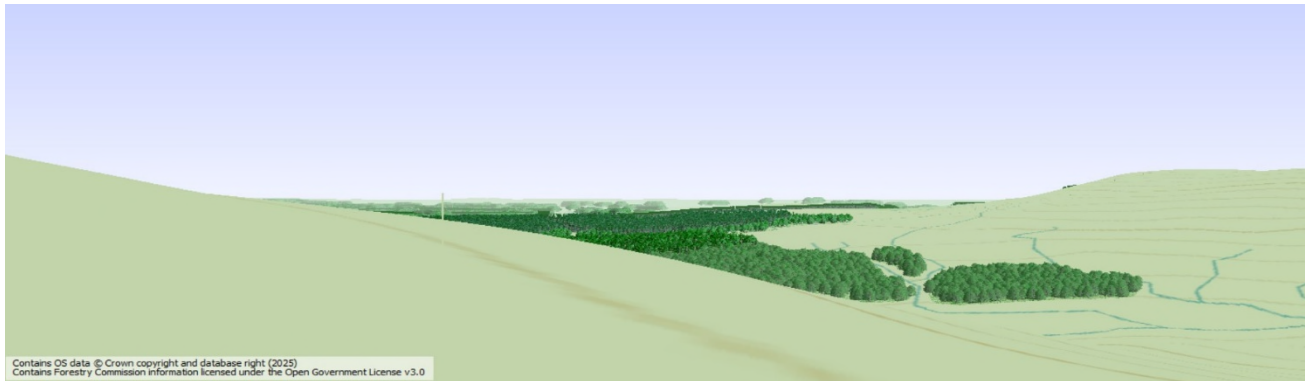
Year 2066 – The new woodland will develop to fill in the middle ground around the existing shelterbelts, with the higher ground on Bell’s Hill being kept open. Native broadleaves will be used to soften the visible woodland edge. Views onto Threipmuir Reservoir and beyond will remain largely unaffected, although these views will be lost from lower sections of the path.

View 3 – NT 195640 Map View - 2025

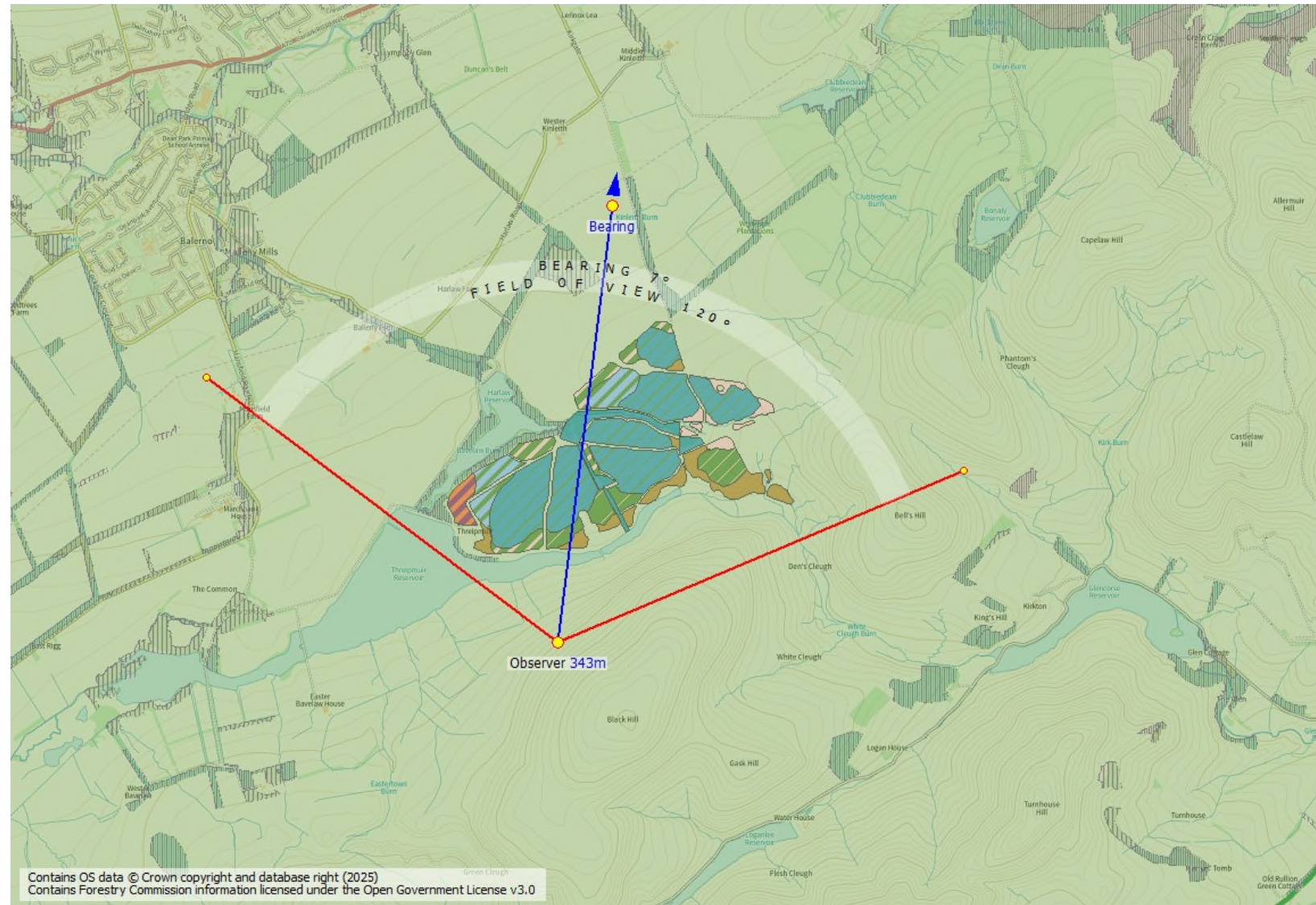




Year 2025 – Black Hill east The eastern half of the site is clearly overlooked from the path that descends from Black Hill's summit towards Glencourse, although the central ridge and existing shelterbelt limits visibility of the northern parts. The wetlands at Black Springs form an attractive feature, enclosed by the bracken clad south-facing slopes of the site. The Lomond Hills are visible beyond the site in the far distance.

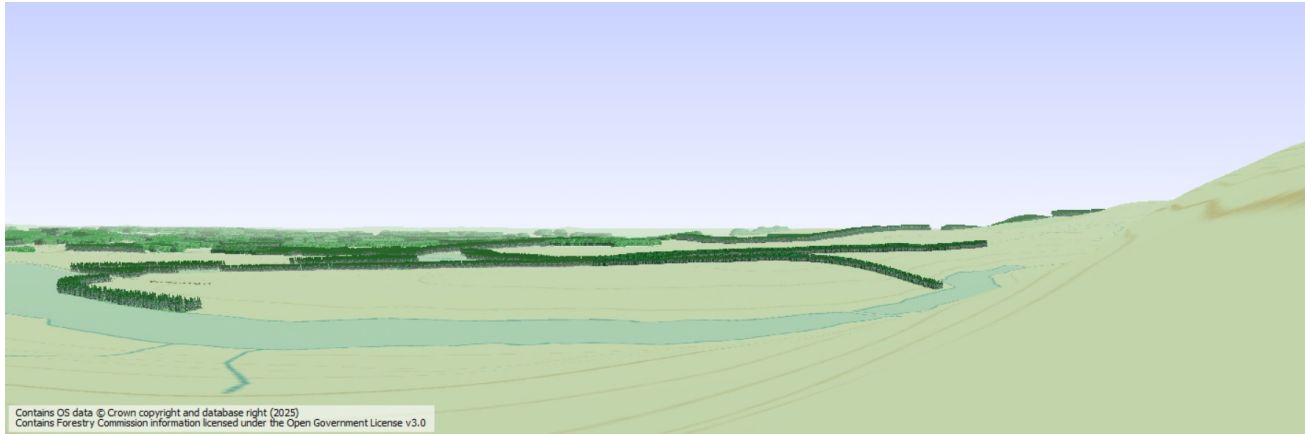


Year 2066 – Woodland cover will become apparent on the lower slopes of Bell's Hill, with the higher ground on Bell's Hill remaining open. The predominance of broadleaved woodland will give the woodland a soft and sinuous appearance. The stand of Scots pine proposed for the ground above Black Springs will reflect the presence of similar woodlands elsewhere in the Pentlands. Again, no long distance views will be lost.

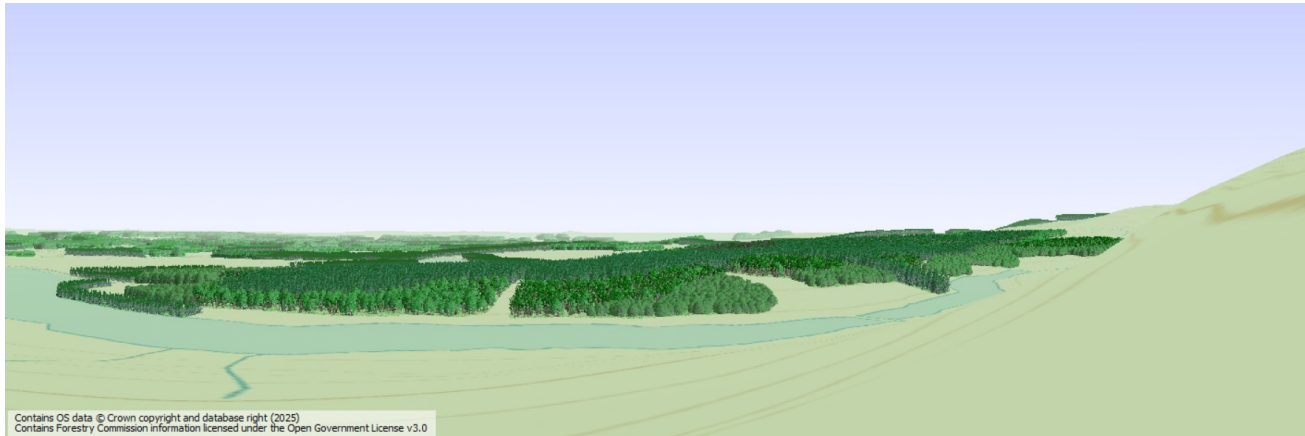


Wester Kinleith Landscape Visualisations

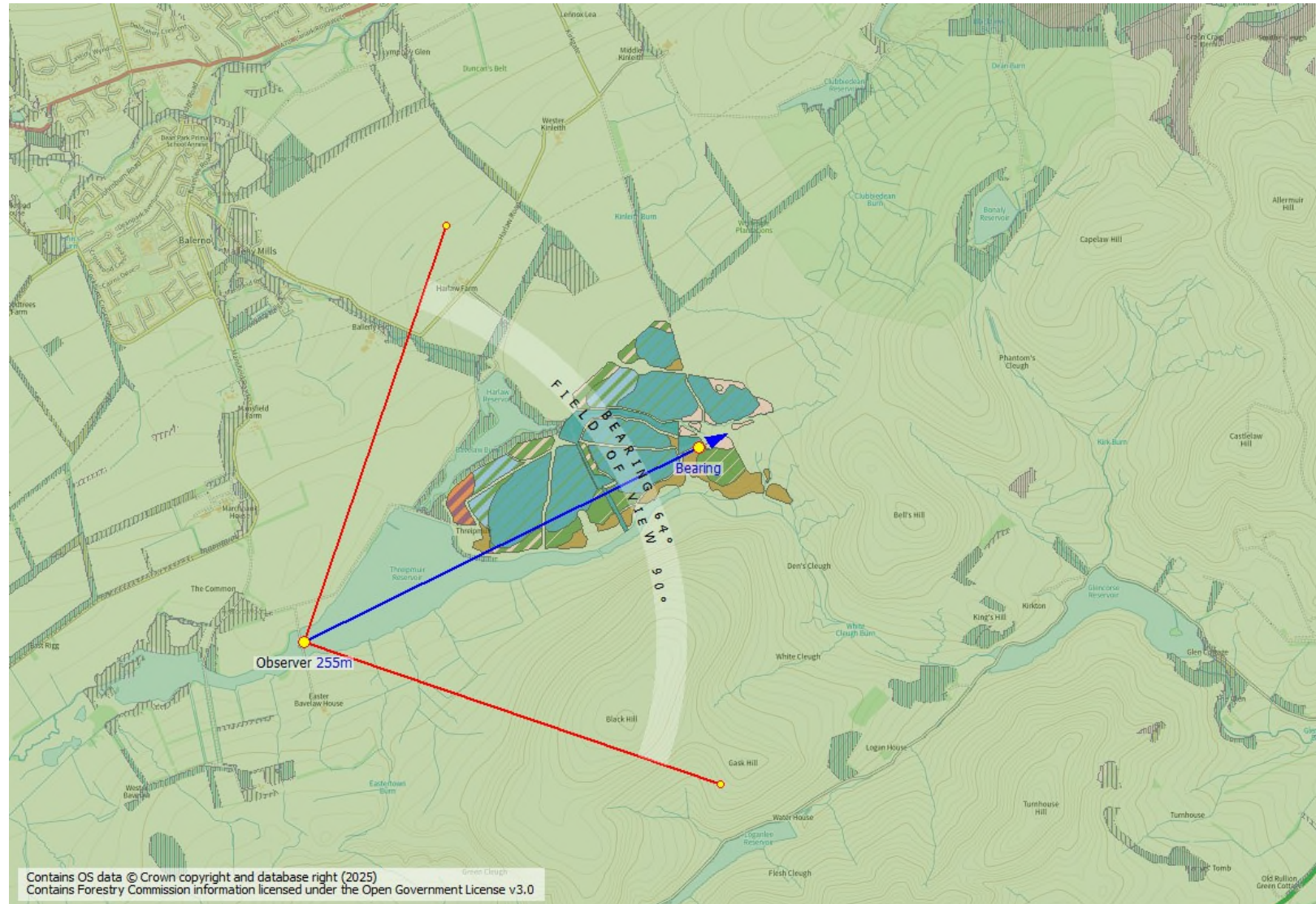
View 4 – NT 195640 Panorama 2025 & 2066



Year 2025 – Black Hill West Clear views over the southwestern half of the site, and Threipmuir Reservoir, are obtained from the well-used path that skirts around Black Hill. The site itself is enclosed by fringing woodland, with Threipmuir farmstead and the gorse-clad quarry being features of note. The existing young shelterbelts obscure visibility of the northern parts of the site.

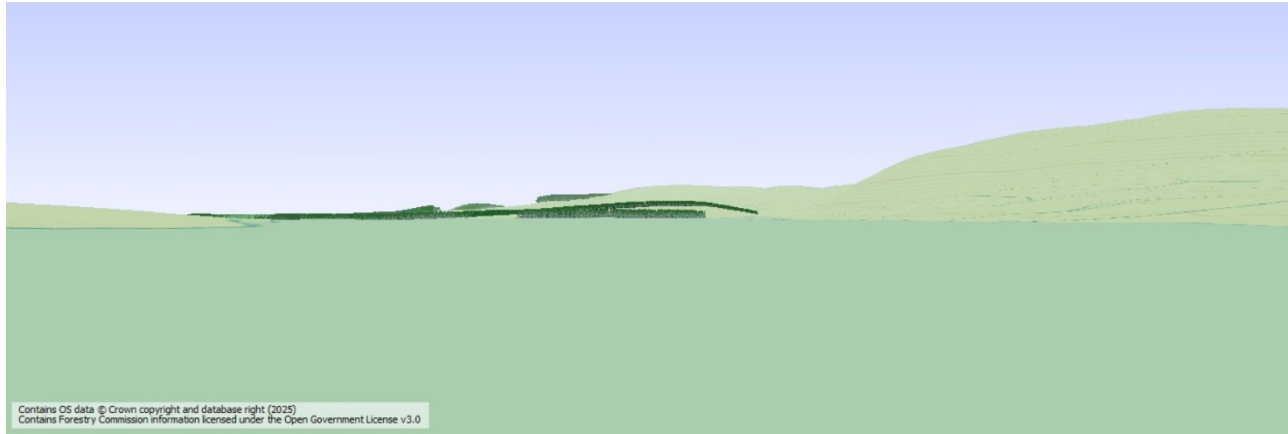


Year 2066 – The new woodland will occupy the open ground between Threipmuir Reservoir and the existing shelterbelts on the higher ground. The extensive use of broadleaved planting, along with Scots pine and mixed woodland stands will provide visual diversity and a softening of the woodland edge, while the retention of open ground for biodiversity reasons will result in sinuous lower margins.

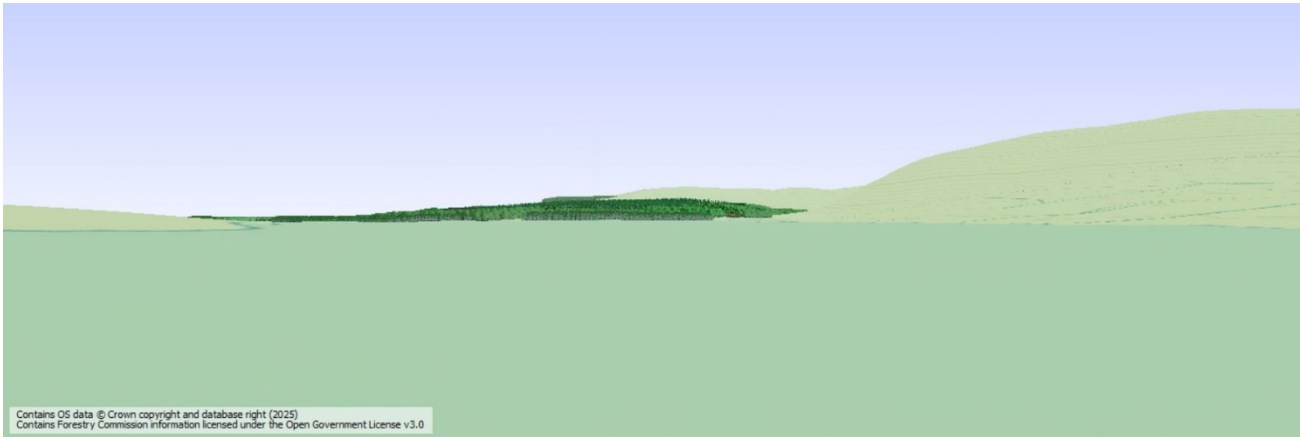


Wester Kinleith Landscape Visualisations

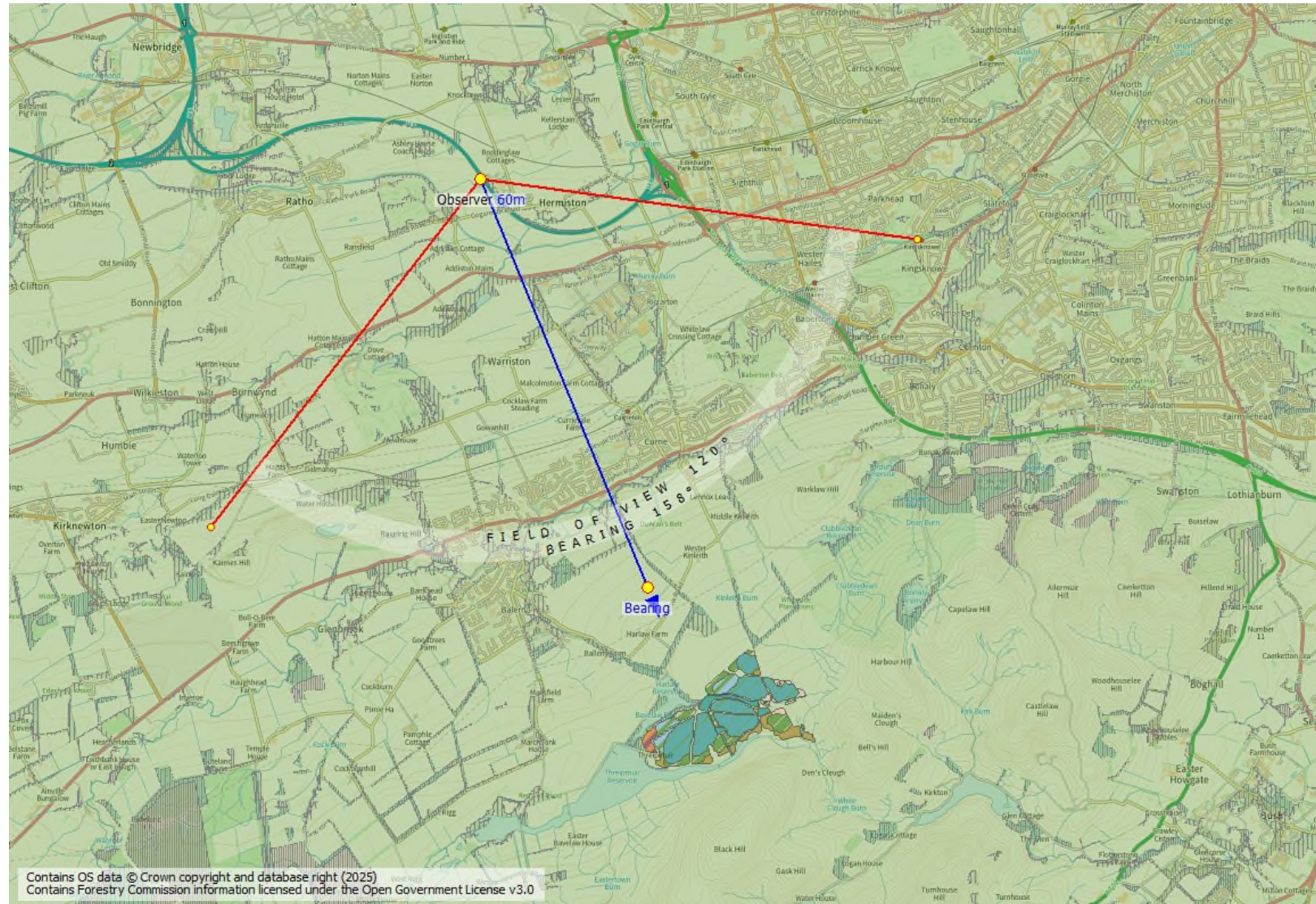
View 5 – NT 170637 Panorama 2025 & 2066



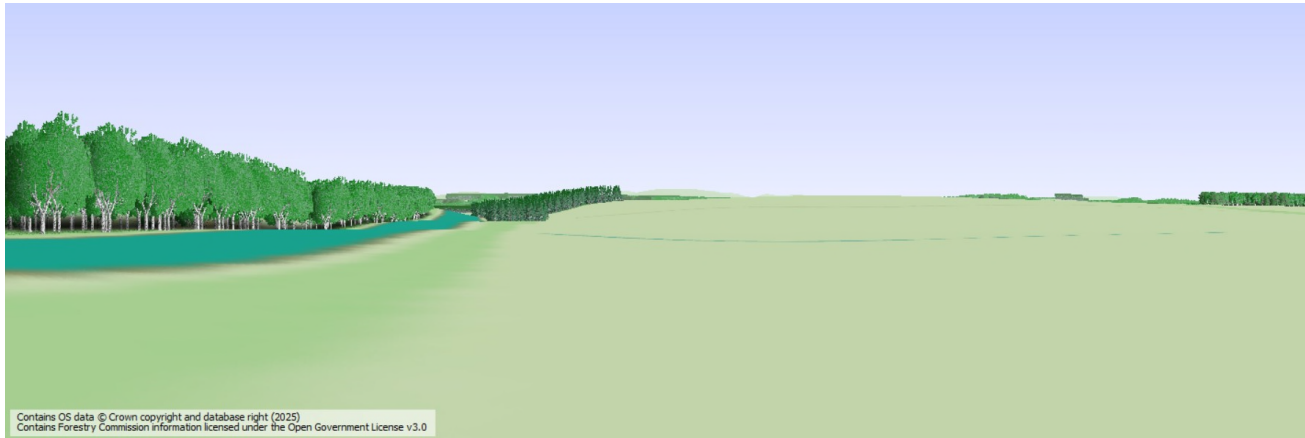
Year 2025 – Threipmuir Reservoir The busy path along the banks of the reservoir provides intermittent views over the reservoir and onto the slight ridge at the southern end of the site (the views are restricted in places by existing shore-side woodland). The coniferous woodlands around Bonaly Reservoir are visible on the skyline in the distance beyond the site, but the existing young shelterbelts restrict visibility of the remainder of the site.



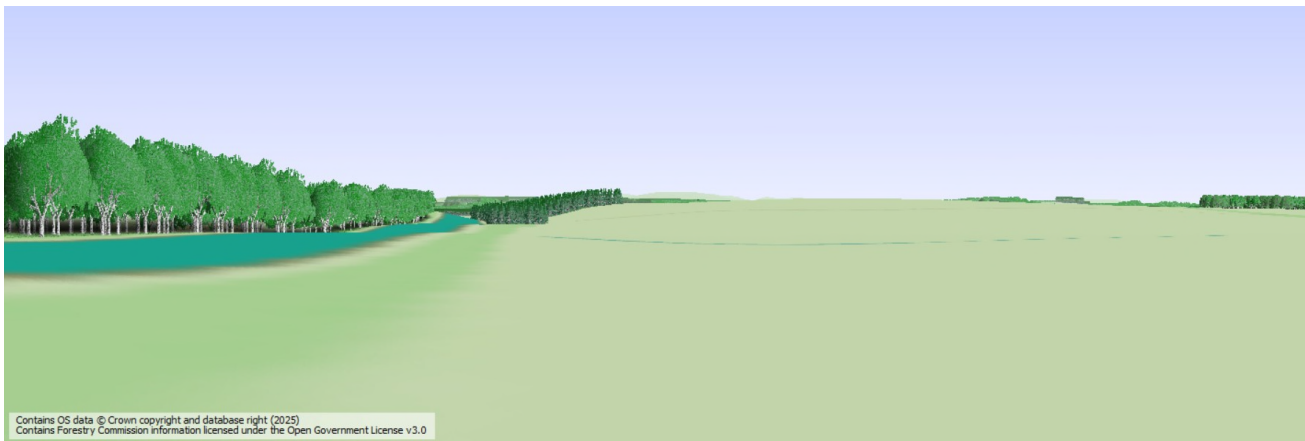
Year 2066 – The new woodland will occupy the middle ground between the shore-side trees and the shelterbelts, and will form a larger and more cohesive woodland feature, incorporating the current isolated woodland at Bonaly. While Sitka spruce will be the dominant species the employment of broadleaved and diverse coniferous species will create good degree of internal diversity.



Wester Kinleith Landscape Visualisations View 6 – NT 099758 Panorama 2025 & 2066



Year 2025 – M8 Motorway Views onto the Pentlands can be seen from the east-bound carriageway of the M8 as it nears Hermiston Gate, with the rounded summits of Black, Bell's, Harbour and Capelaw Hills forming the skyline, while the shelterbelts at Harlaw can also be seen. In the main, however, the sunken location of the motorway, and its tree lined embankments greatly limits views out.



Year 2066 – Visual impacts arising from the planting will be very limited; the shelterbelts on the northern margins of the site will be strengthened by mixed woodland planting, but there will be minimal impact on the open ground above these trees, even in the long term, and long-distance views on the Pentlands will be fully retained.