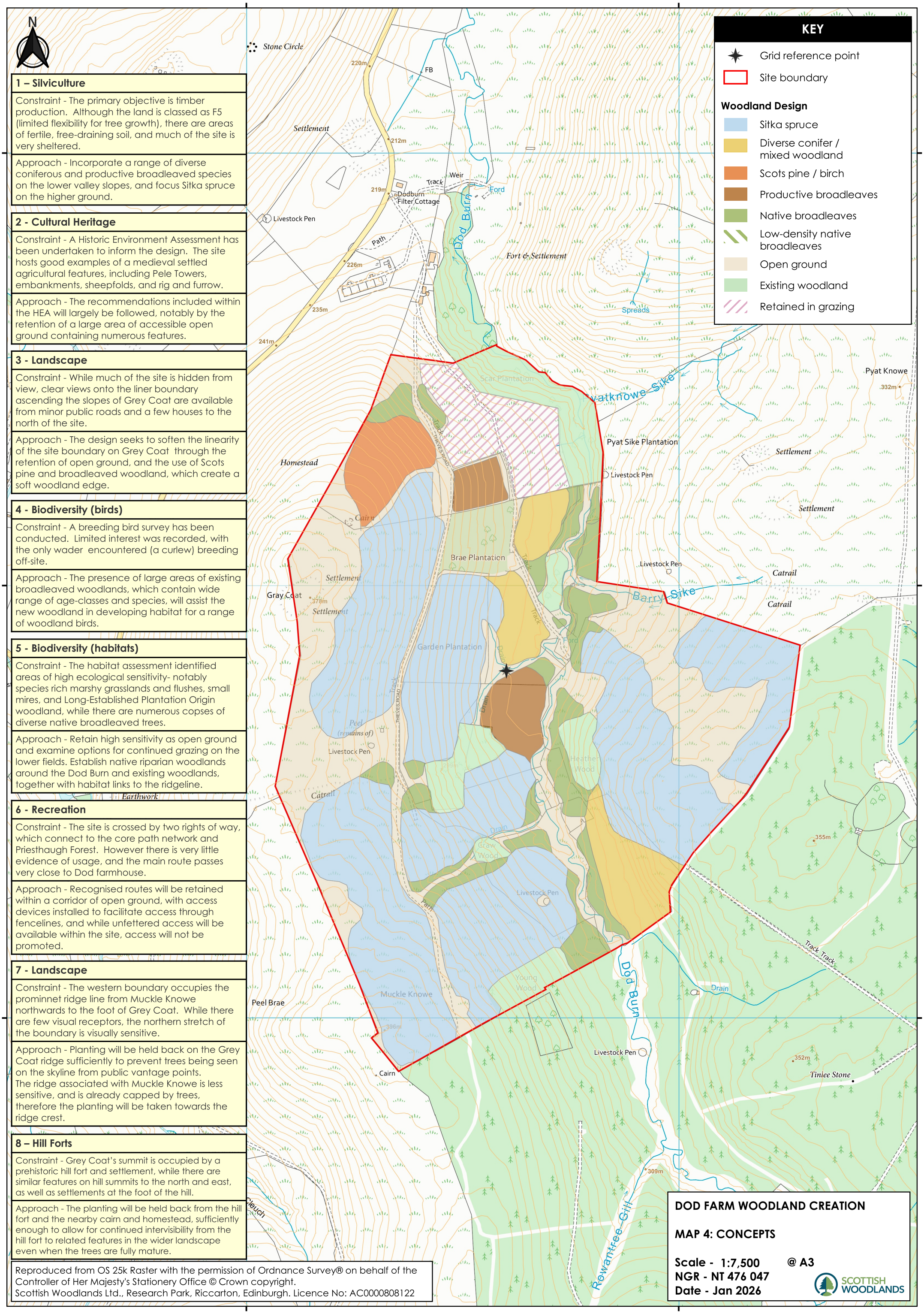

1 – Silviculture

Constraint - The primary objective is timber production. Although the land is classed as F5 (limited flexibility for tree growth), there are areas of fertile, free-draining soil, and much of the site is very sheltered.

Approach - Incorporate a range of diverse coniferous and productive broadleaved species on the lower valley slopes, and focus Sitka spruce on the higher ground.

2 - Cultural Heritage

Constraint - A Historic Environment Assessment has been undertaken to inform the design. The site hosts good examples of a medieval settled agricultural features, including Pele Towers, embankments, sheepfolds, and rig and furrow.

Approach - The recommendations included within the HEA will largely be followed, notably by the retention of a large area of accessible open ground containing numerous features.

3 - Landscape

Constraint - While much of the site is hidden from view, clear views onto the liner boundary ascending the slopes of Grey Coat are available from minor public roads and a few houses to the north of the site.

Approach - The design seeks to soften the linearity of the site boundary on Grey Coat through the retention of open ground, and the use of Scots pine and broadleaved woodland, which create a soft woodland edge.

4 - Biodiversity (birds)

Constraint - A breeding bird survey has been conducted. Limited interest was recorded, with the only wader encountered (a curlew) breeding off-site.

Approach - The presence of large areas of existing broadleaved woodlands, which contain wide range of age-classes and species, will assist the new woodland in developing habitat for a range of woodland birds.

5 - Biodiversity (habitats)

Constraint - The habitat assessment identified areas of high ecological sensitivity- notably species rich marshy grasslands and flushes, small mires, and Long-Established Plantation Origin woodland, while there are numerous copses of diverse native broadleaved trees.

Approach - Retain high sensitivity as open ground and examine options for continued grazing on the lower fields. Establish native riparian woodlands around the Dod Burn and existing woodlands, together with habitat links to the ridgeline.

6 - Recreation

Constraint - The site is crossed by two rights of way, which connect to the core path network and Priesthaugh Forest. However there is very little evidence of usage, and the main route passes very close to Dod farmhouse.

Approach - Recognised routes will be retained within a corridor of open ground, with access devices installed to facilitate access through fencelines, and while unfettered access will be available within the site, access will not be promoted.

7 - Landscape

Constraint - The western boundary occupies the prominnet ridge line from Muckle Knowe northwards to the foot of Grey Coat. While there are few visual receptors, the northern stretch of the boundary is visually sensitive.

Approach - Planting will be held back on the Grey Coat ridge sufficiently to prevent trees being seen on the skyline from public vantage points.
The ridge associated with Muckle Knowe is less sensitive, and is already capped by trees, therefore the planting will be taken towards the ridge crest.

8 – Hill Forts

Constraint - Grey Coat's summit is occupied by a prehistoric hill fort and settlement, while there are similar features on hill summits to the north and east, as well as settlements at the foot of the hill.

Approach - The planting will be held back from the hill fort and the nearby cairn and homestead, sufficiently enough to allow for continued intervisibility from the hill fort to related features in the wider landscape even when the trees are fully mature.

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DOD FARM WOODLAND CREATION

MAP 4: CONCEPTS

Scale - 1:7,500 @ A3
NGR - NT 476 047
Date - Jan 2026

SCOTTISH WOODLANDS